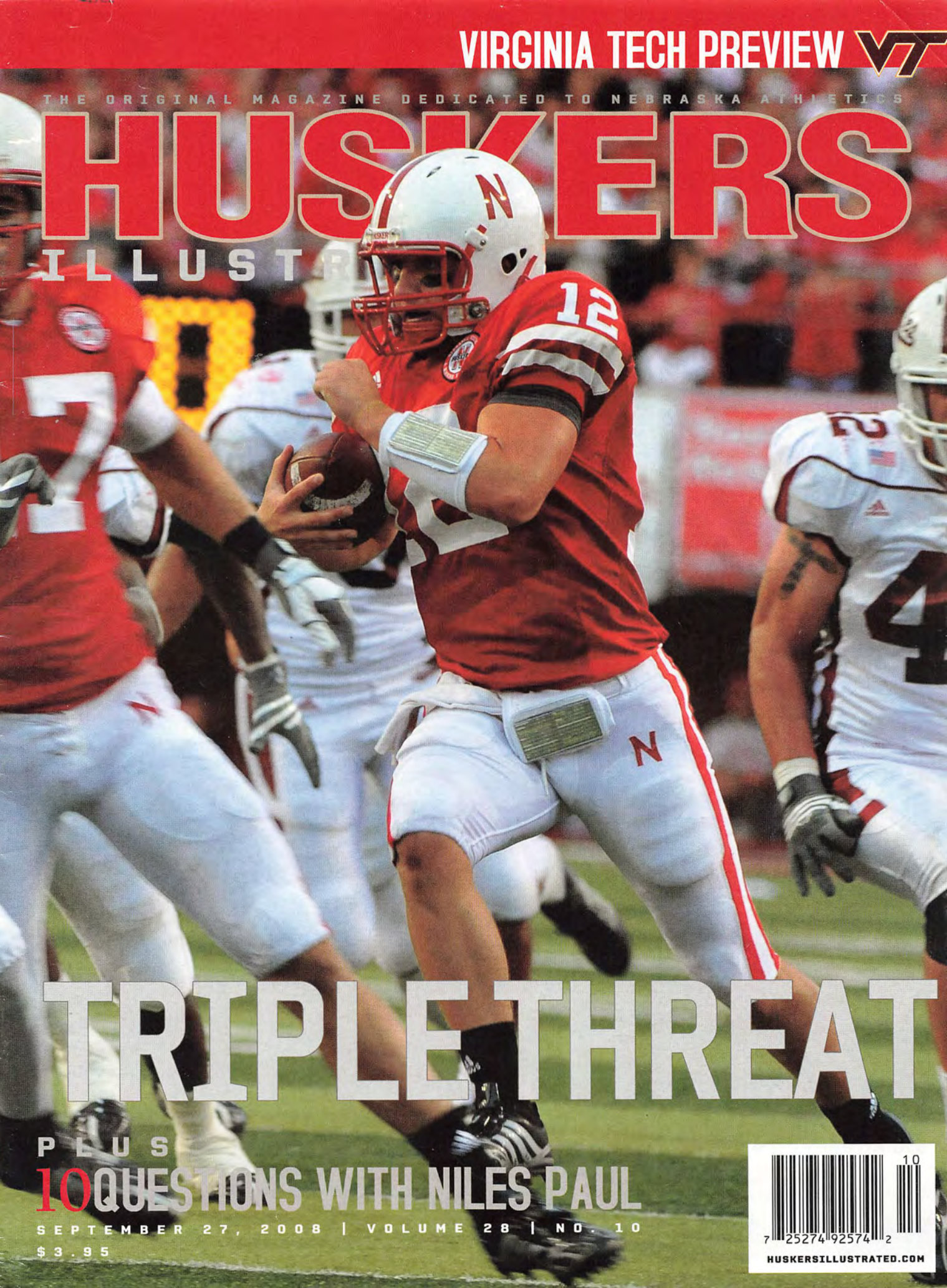


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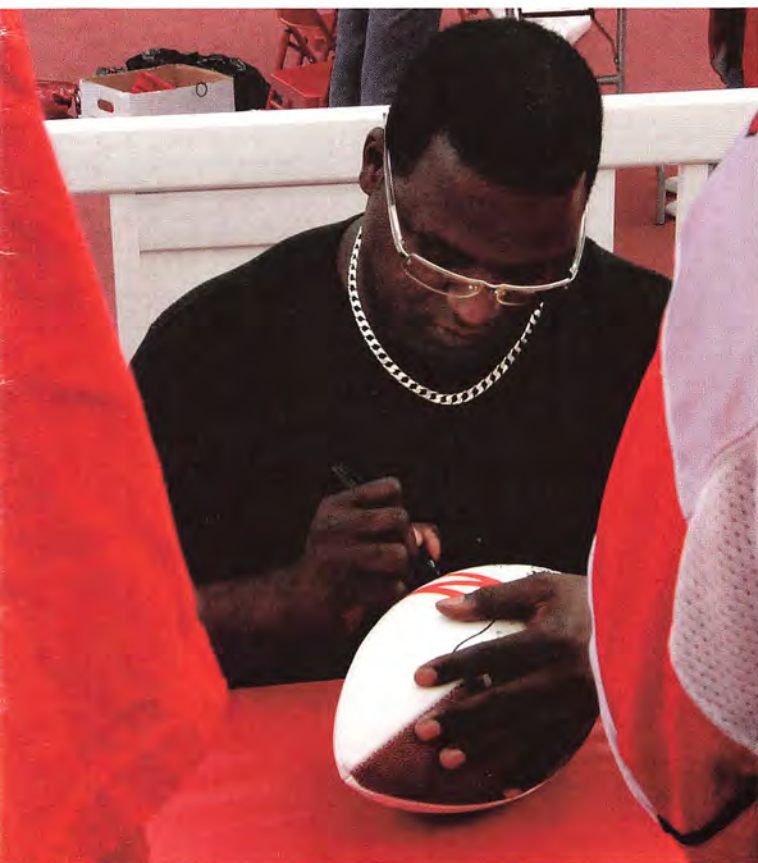


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Correction: Ken Clark (above) was incorrectly identified in our previous issue.

THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

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NEXT ISSUE

The Virginia Tech Recap/Missouri Preview will be mailed on Monday, Sept. 29.
Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

HUSKERS

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ON THE COVER

Joe Ganz became just the third Husker to throw, catch and run for a touchdown in a single game as the Huskers pounded New Mexico State, 38-7. Ganz rushed for 69 yards and threw for 158, completing 13-of-17 passes with no interceptions.

Photo by Randy Hampton



PROVIDING ANSWERS

Huskers turn in sharp performance heading into off week



PRIOR TO THE SEASON most Husker fans probably didn't circle the New Mexico State game as key contest on the schedule.

But the Huskers' third game of the year was very significant.

It wasn't so much the opponent, but the timing of Saturday's game. It's hard to believe, but after a 38-7 win over New Mexico State, Nebraska has a quarter of its regular season games in the books and is essentially done with its "preseason."

From here on out, Nebraska will see a different level of talent on the other sideline. The best way for the Huskers to prepare for that next level of competition was to make a statement – not to the Big 12, not to Husker Nation, but to themselves.

Nebraska needed to play a complete game to see what it feels like and they did just that. Bo Pelini knew it was an important night as the Huskers will enjoy an off week before hosting Virginia Tech.

"I said to my wife today... 'we need to play well tonight, going into the bye,'" Pelini said.

And while a 38-7 win over New Mexico State may not raise many eyebrows nationally, the game showed that Nebraska has made improvements in nearly every facet of the game over the first three weeks.

Pelini is seeing a transformation.

"I think we're getting better as a football team in every phase. It shows that we're growing as a football team."

It's appropriate that Pelini's post-game press conference was littered with the word attitude. Because while the Cornhuskers have made statistical improvements, the most evident change is in its attitude.

The Huskers have been aggressive and managed to make key plays when they've needed them through the first three weeks.

Are those changes enough to stop the suddenly dominant Big 12?

Maybe not. But if the Huskers play with a continued swagger and can dial up the big plays when they need them, the wins will likely follow.

The Huskers also answered the burning question, "can Nebraska run the ball?"

Offensive Coordinator Shawn Watson and his three-headed backfield in Marlon Lucky, Roy Helu and Quentin Castille responded with 330 yards on the ground, including a 103-yard performance from Lucky.

While the Huskers still have to eliminate penalties and prove they can slow the Big 12's high-octane passing attacks, they appear to be making improvements each week.

"I'm excited to see we're headed in the right direction," Pelini said. "I love the way our kids approached the game, their attitude going into the game, their focus going into the game. We're coming. It's coming." **N**

Send us your comments or story ideas to huskersillustrated@gmail.com.

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LOOKING TO HELP

Several years ago, Gary McGirr (president of the Northeast Kansans for Nebraska in Topeka, Kansas) and I helped start "Husker Dan's Army," to bring a touch of Nebraska to our troops serving in the Middle East. For every \$100 we raise, the Red Zone in Omaha boxes Husker care packages that are filled with Husker T-shirts, caps, media guides, etc., and sends them overseas. We have been able to help hundreds of soldiers.

Now we are planning a "Husker Fans' Salute To The Troops" celebration in Lincoln, the weekend of Nov. 1-2. The weekend activities are for troopers and their families. There will be a Husker Watch Party at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel Saturday, following a special tour of the UNL athletic facilities. We have even set up a special "Tunnel Walk" experience for them.

Sunday there will be an awards brunch at 1 p.m. at the

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel. Any vet and their families from any war is invited to attend the weekend activities. We have 100 rooms reserved at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel for that weekend.

The "Salute" is our chance to honor the men and women

in the armed forces who have served overseas. The web site (www.huskersalute.org) has information on how to register for the activities and how people can donate to the cause.

Thanks for your help!

Dan "Husker Dan" McGlynn
Omaha, Neb.

Cornhead Corner

definition: **CORNHEAD**, corn-head – noun

1. a person with an extreme and often unusual enthusiasm or zeal for the University of Nebraska Cornhusker athletic program. Side effects may manifest in abnormal collections of Husker memorabilia, obsessive desires to attend Nebraska sporting events and paranoid delusions that every season should result in a national championship. This compulsive behavior can be contagious and is often a serious irritant for fans of the University of Missouri or Colorado.



JEFF JONES has been a Husker fan since he was a kid growing up on the family farm south of Wymore. "My first memory of a game is watching the 1971 Game of the Century," Jones said. "I never missed a game on radio or TV when they were on."

As an adult Husker fan, Jones directed his attention to collecting Husker decanters after receiving his first as a gift from his wife in 1997. But his biggest passion has been running his web site, www.HuskerJ.com. His site is built as a service to collectors and is intended to be a reference site for Husker memorabilia.

His site showcases nearly every game program cover in Husker history, including rare road game programs as well as Husker ceramics, coins and other rarely seen Nebraska treasures.

ARE YOU A CORNHEAD? Send us your story along with a photo to huskersillustrated@gmail.com and you may be featured in an upcoming issue of Huskers Illustrated.

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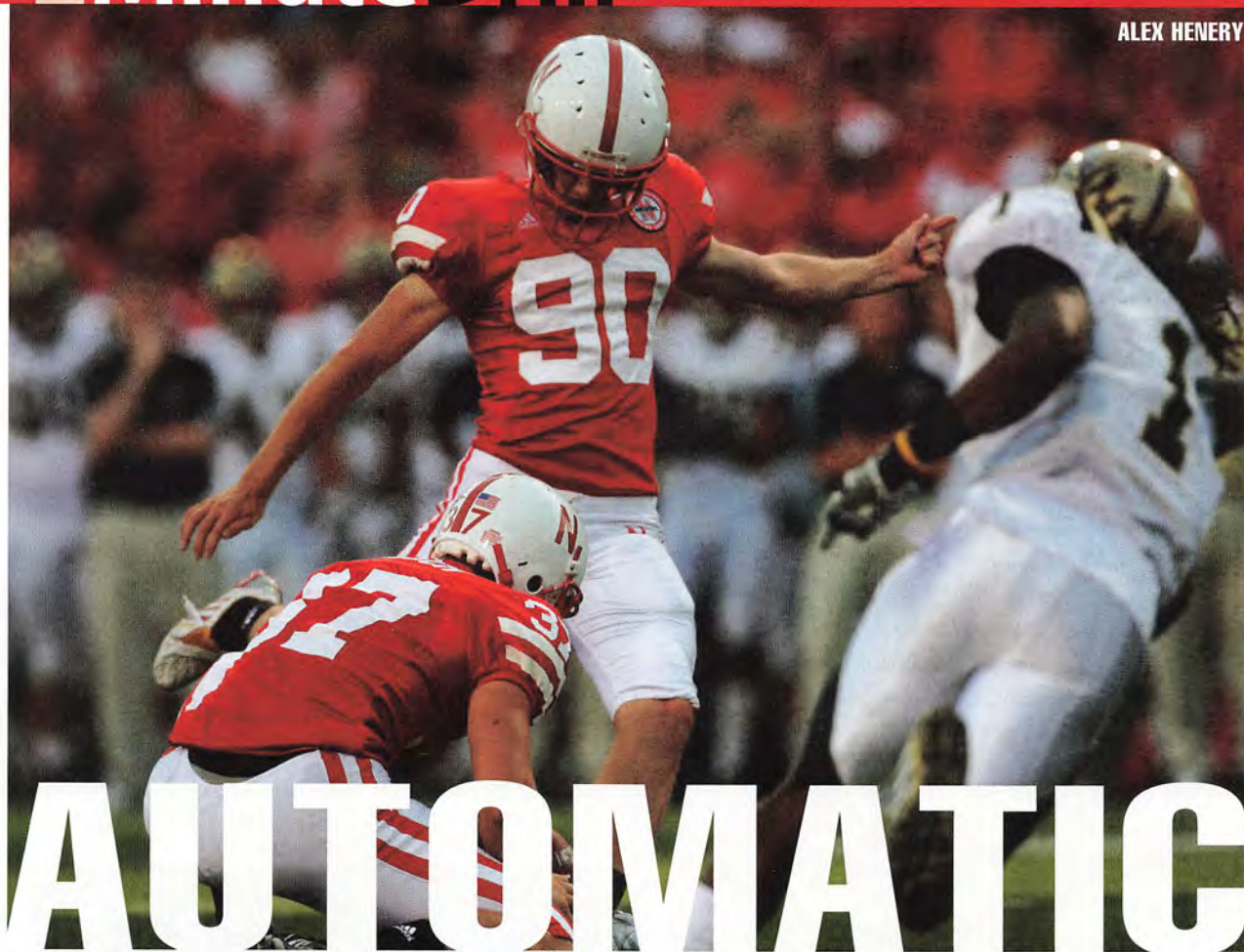


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ALEX HENERY



AUTOMATIC

No, **ALEX HENERY** didn't request a No. 90 jersey when he arrived at Nebraska. The number was assigned. But "90 is fine with me," the sophomore place-kicker said.

"I got confused with Adam Carriker as a freshman, so . . ."

The rest of the sentence was lost in laughter.

Carriker, the Big 12 defensive lineman of the year as a senior in 2006, also wore a No. 90 jersey. But that's where the similarity ended. The 6-6 Carriker weighed 295 at Nebraska. His nickname was "Drago," for the character in the Rocky movie. Henery is listed at 6-2 and 175 pounds.

His remark, to conclude an interview in front of reporters, microphones and television cameras at the Cornhuskers' weekly news conference on the Tuesday after

the Western Michigan game, was evidence of that Henery possesses a dry sense of humor as well as a strong and accurate right leg.

Would he consider himself fiery and emotional?

"Probably not," he said with a laugh. "I'm a more low-key kind of guy."

Did he ever miss field goals in practice?

"I'll miss," he said. "I don't make them all."

The question about perfection was prompted by his having kicked 4-of-4 field goals, all from 43 yards, against Western Michigan. He was 8-of-8 on field goals last season. And through the first two games this season, he also was perfect on career extra-point kicks, 55-of-55.

Henery's success is even more remarkable considering he hasn't had a personal kicking coach. He credits Mike Bailey, his high school soccer coach and the football team's

kicking coach, with having helped him the most. In addition, he walked on at Nebraska planning to punt not place-kick.

He could have gone to Creighton on a soccer scholarship but he picked Nebraska, in part, because of its engineering program. His major is construction management.

He doesn't do "too much to stay mentally prepared" on the sideline before he kicks field goals, Henery said. "I like joking around, so you'll see me on the sideline just kind of horsing around to make sure I'm loose and whatnot and then (be) ready to focus when I go out there."

After four field goals of 43 yards in the Western Michigan game, he was featured on ESPN's SportsCenter. However, "I didn't get to see it, so I was a little . . . (ticked)," he said.

Again, reporters were laughing as he finished.

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BO PELINI



BO'S BIG PLAYS

"Big plays" often are defined as those that gain 20 yards or more. Offenses try to break them. Defenses try to stop them. "Ours is less than that," Cornhusker coach **BO PELINI** said.

His definition of "big play" is a pass of 16 yards or more and a run of 12 yards or more. "That's something we focus on (defensively) and we need to eliminate," he said.

LOT TO LEARN

MASON WALD is among the true freshmen who aren't redshirting. He's playing on special teams and trying to learn safety. "The hardest thing for me so far has just been the difference in the playbook, really," he said. "In high school we didn't have but five or six coverages. Here you've got 40 or 50.

"I think safety's one of the tougher positions to pick up on defense, and then there's a pretty good amount to learn. But it's really not that tough of a defense. Once you learn the concepts, what they're trying to do, it makes it a lot easier. The first week or so it was tough. But once you start learning concepts, what they're trying to do, everything comes together. So it's getting easier."

MASON WALD



SPREADING IT OUT

If you're looking to irritate **BO PELINI**, ask him about the spread offense. "Everywhere I read, I just keep reading about the spread offense, like all of a sudden this is the first time it's ever happened," he said early in the season, in response to a reporter's question. "It's not a concern. It's just part of the deal. The spread's just an element of the game. Our offense incorporates a lot of elements of the spread, just different formations and maybe some different plays. I really don't know how to respond much to the spread offense (question) anymore. It's been asked and answered. Everybody's different."

A reporter asked Pelini if hearing about the spread irritated him.

"It's football. No it doesn't . . . it baffles me, I'll put it that way," he replied. The Cornhuskers will be dealing with a lot of spread offenses this season.

SIDELINES

TURNER OUT



Defensive end **BARRY TURNER** has been lost for the season after

suffering a broken bone in his left leg on the third defensive snap in the San Jose State game. Because Turner played as a true freshman and the injury occurred in the second game of the season, he can take a medical redshirt and return in 2009.



PANCAKES ANYONE?

Nebraska has resurrected the pancakes statistic as it tries to resurrect the running game. Blockers are credited with "pancakes" when they knock down defenders. The statistic wasn't kept during **BILL CALLAHAN'S** coaching tenure. The statistic is "really big for us because that's all we got," said senior offensive guard **MATT SLAUSON**. "We don't get receiving yards or rushing yards. The only yards we get to look at is how many the back gets. The only stat we get besides that (pancakes) is holding calls and offsides."

As for the edible variety of pancakes, "I'm kind of a waffle guy," Slauson said.

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How far is too far?

The long and short of it is that **ALEX HENERY** is the Cornhuskers' field goal kicker for now, regardless of the distance. "If it got to be a real long one, you might see **ADI (KUNALIC)**, but Alex, right now, he's kicking well, so there's no sense messing with our rhythm," coach **BO PELINI** said.

Last season, Kunalic kicked a 46-yard field goal in the opening game against Nevada and was generally considered the guy who would get the call if a long field goal were needed. The longest of Henery's eight field goals was 39 yards. This season, however, he connected on four 43-yard field goals in the opener against Western Michigan, and "I've seen Alex kick 'em over 50," said Pelini.

Henery kicked a 63-yard field goal in practice during the spring.

"Adi might have a little bit more leg," Pelini

said. "He's not quite as accurate as Alex."

Kunalic consistently sends the ball into the end zone on kickoffs.

"That sure is a weapon for you," said Pelini.

CHRISTENSEN RETURNS



ANDY CHRISTENSEN,

who was suspended indefinitely following an off-the-field incident prior to spring practice, returned to practice on the Monday after the San

Jose State game after being acquitted in court. Coach **BO PELINI** issued a statement regarding Christensen. It said, in part:

"After speaking with Andy Christensen and his family, as well as Coach (Tom) Osborne, our administration and the Unity Council, we have made the decision to re-instate Andy to

SIDELINES



JUST KIDDING

CODY GLENN, who has found a home at linebacker after spending his first three years at Nebraska as a running back, was asked during fall camp if there was anything he missed about his former position. He smiled. "Sometimes I look down there and see they aren't really doing much," he said of the running backs. "From the defensive side, you work much, much harder. Practice is much, much harder.

"I just kind of look at them and see them sitting around. That's about it. Man, it was so much easier over there. It's work around here (at linebacker)."

Running backs coach **TIM BECK** probably would take offense if Glenn hadn't been kidding.

WALK-ON WITH TOM

The Nebraska athletic department recently announced the formation of the Walk-On Club, as presented by the Extra Point Club.

The new club was created to help the department restore the traditional walk-on program.

The club offers several membership benefits, including invitations to luncheons, football practice and other events.

Membership is a donation of \$100. The club's first luncheon will feature **TOM OSBORNE** as guest speaker and will be held Sept. 18 at 11:30 a.m. at the Lincoln Station.

The luncheon is open to the public and is \$25. Tickets are available through the Athletic Development Office at 1-800-8 BIG RED.



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our football team. That being said, I have clearly explained to Andy and his family that going forward, he will have a zero tolerance policy regarding alcohol and any off-field incidents."

Christensen, an offensive guard, started eight games as a sophomore in 2006 and three games last season before being sidelined by a knee injury. He also missed the 2005 season with a shoulder injury, after redshirting in 2004, and could petition the NCAA for a sixth season of eligibility.

PAUL HONORED



Sophomore **NILES PAUL** was named Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Week following the San Jose State game. His 85-yard kickoff return

for a touchdown early in the fourth quarter gave the Cornhuskers an emotional boost. He was the first Cornhusker to earn conference player-of-the-week recognition since quarterback **JOE GANZ** was the Offensive Player of the Week following the Kansas State game last season.

NO HORSE COLLARS OR CHOP BLOCKS

Among the rules changes this season is one penalizing horse-collar tackles – when a player is pulled down by grasping the inside collar of his jersey or the shoulder pads beneath. "We don't teach that, so it doesn't really affect our teaching," Cornhusker coach **BO PELINI** said.

"If it happens, it's usually by accident."

The NCAA also has clarified the rules relating to chop blocks. "You don't want any high-lows," said Pelini. "You don't want to risk anybody's season or even career, so I think that's always a good thing. Protection of these young men has got to be at a premium."

HUSKERS IN THE NFL

Only three true freshmen played on Nebraska's 1995 national championship team. They all went on to play in the National Football League. And two of them are still playing.

Runningback **AHMAN GREEN** and kicker **KRIS BROWN** were among 32 former Cornhuskers on NFL rosters to start the 2008 season. Three were on injured reserve, and four were on practice squads.

Green, who opted to leave Nebraska a year early, is in his 11th NFL season, while Brown is in his 10th. And they are again teammates with the Houston Texans.

Green was a third-round draft pick of the Seattle Seahawks in 1998. He spent two seasons in Seattle and seven seasons with the Green Bay Packers, before going to the Texans last season. He played in only six games because of a knee injury, a year ago. He played in three Pro Bowls while in Green Bay.

Brown was a seventh-round draft pick of the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1999, after setting Nebraska's career-scoring record with 388



AHMAN GREEN

points over his four seasons. He played three seasons in Pittsburgh.

Brown had 97 points to lead the Cornhuskers in scoring in 1995, edging out Green by one point. Green rushed for 1,086 yards and 13 touchdowns and caught three touchdown passes.

The other true freshman to play in 1995, by the way, was defensive end **CHAD KELSAY**.

[ROSTER PLAYERS]

NAME	POS.	TEAM (NFL EXP)
*Ryon Bingham	DT	San Diego (4th)
Stewart Bradley	LB	Philadelphia (2nd)
Josh Brown	K	St. Louis (6th)
Kris Brown	K	Houston (10th)
Mike Brown	S	Chicago (9th)
Ralph Brown	CB	Arizona (9th)
Correll Buckhalter	RB	Philadelphia (8th)
*Daniel Bullocks	S	Detroit (3rd)
*Josh Bullocks	S	New Orleans (4th)
Adam Carriker	NT	St. Louis (2nd)
Ahman Green	RB	Houston (11th)
Russ Hochstein	OG/C	New England (8th)
Richie Incognito	OG	St. Louis Rams (2nd)
Brandon Jackson	RB	Green Bay (2nd)
Chris Kelsay	DE	Buffalo (6th)
Sam Koch	P	Baltimore (3rd)
Kyle Larson	P	Cincinnati (5th)
Carl Nicks	OL	New Orleans (1st)
Dominic Raiola	C	Detroit (8th)
*Barrett Ruud	LB	Tampa Bay (4th)
Scott Shanle	LB	New Orleans (6th)

NAME	POS.	TEAM (NFL EXP)
*Le Kevin Smith	DL	New England (3rd)
Kyle Vanden Bosch	DE	Tennessee (8th)
*Fabian Washington	CB	Baltimore (4th)
*Demorrio Williams	LB	Kansas City (5th)

[INJURED RESERVE]

Jay Moore	DE	San Francisco (2nd)
Cory Ross	RB	Baltimore (3rd)
Bo Ruud	LB	New England (1st)

[PRACTICE SQUAD]

*Titus Adams	DT	New England (3rd)
Zack Bowman	CB	Chicago (1st)
Chris Patrick	OT	Philadelphia (2nd)
Maurice Purify	WR	Cincinnati (1st)

[COACHES]

Gene Huey	RB	Indianapolis (17th)
Monte Kiffin	DC	Tampa Bay (26th)
Tom Rathman	RB	Oakland (10th)

*Started in 2003 when Bo Pelini was defensive coordinator.



N

Justin, Jordan Makovicka: Ulysses, NE



Yes, Justin (top) and Jordan (bottom) Makovicka are following brothers Jeff and Joel at Nebraska. And no, the family hasn't moved since their brothers were playing for the Cornhuskers. But Jeff and Joel aren't listed among the football lettermen from Ulysses. They earned letters, eight between them from 1992 to 1998. But they listed their hometown as Brainard, Neb.



East Butler High School is located in Brainard. But the

Makovicka family farm, where their father John grew up, is only 2 miles from Ulysses. So Justin and Jordan listed it.

The truth is, the Makovicka brothers represent "the whole area, I guess," said Justin, who attended elementary school in Dwight. "It's kind of a county thing."

Justin turned down a scholarship from Iowa State to walk on, while Jordan wavered between playing baseball at Creighton and walking on to play football at Nebraska.

"Everybody knows who you are, and they want to see you do good," Justin said. "I think being from a small town, everybody's kind of counting on you. A lot of farm kids, a lot of hard workers, don't get a chance, being from a small school.

"You just try to represent them, do your best." **N**

JUSTIN MAKOVICKA

FB, 6-1, 240, Sophomore

JORDAN MAKOVICKA

RB, 5-10, 170, Freshman

Hometown: Ulysses, Neb.

County: Butler

Population: 252 (2007)

Distance from Lincoln: 32 miles

Nebraska football letterman:

Paul Dobson, HB (1916-18)

Ray Prochaska, E (1938-40)

George Prochaska, G (1950-52)

Dennis Korinek, HB (1952-54)



SIDELINES



BRIEFLY

Cornerback **ARMANDO MURILLO** is one of only two seniors in the secondary. The other is safety **MATT O'HANLON**. His teammates consider him the old guy, said Murillo. "I'm Pops."

DOAK OSTERGARD, Nebraska's out-reach director, influenced **CODY GLENN'S** decision to switch from running back to linebacker in the spring. "He's seen a lot of good athletes in the Nebraska program," Glenn told the *Omaha World-Herald*. "So I figured he knew what he was talking about."

BO PELINI has a sense of humor. He began the post-practice interview on the Thursday prior to the San Jose State game, before a question could be asked, with: "That might have been the worst practice I've been around or been a part of in all my years of coaching." Pause. Just kidding.

NDAMUKONG SUH gave credit where credit was due for his 49-yard interception return for a touchdown against San Jose State. "It took a toll on me, but I definitely thank Coach (**JAMES**) **DOBSON** and all the running this summer." Dobson is the head football strength coach.



THE BIG 12 BEAT

BY CURT MCKEEVER

Even Texas hates celebration penalty

MACK BROWN SOUNDED like even he had been robbed of a great college football game.

Rather than talking about the back-and-forth contest Washington and Brigham Young put on during their Sept. 6 battle, the Texas coach got caught in the swirl of how BYU posted its 28-27 win thanks to a rule that penalizes jubilation from the participants.

After plunging into the end zone to pull his team an extra-point kick away from going into overtime, elated Washington quarterback Jake Locker jumped up, flipped the ball into the air over his right shoulder and raced to join a happy mob of teammates. That seemingly harmless action drew Locker an unsportsmanlike conduct flag for excessive celebration and after the Huskies were penalized 15 yards the PAT try was blocked to bring about a stunning end.

It also had Brown recalling how he was on the 1995 committee that started talking about doing something to curtail excessive celebration.

"I don't think, in sitting and listening to the rule when it was put in, (that) it was meant for excitement. It was meant for taunting. It was meant for excessive celebration, unlike this young man just being excited," Brown said. "So I hated it for him. I hated it for Washington and I didn't think it should've changed the nature of that game in the end."

At the same time, Brown understood why Pac-10 referee Larry Farina said the officials had no choice but to penalize Locker based on Rule 9, Section 2, Article 1 of the NCAA rule book.

Farina noted there was no judgment to the call, which is something Brown would like to see considered.

"We're all trying to get our kids excited. We're in show business," he said. "We want

the fans excited, and as long as you're not doing something to embarrass the other team or bring attention to yourself . . . I just would like to see where there's a little bit more judgment of official involved."

On Sept. 6, **THE BIG 12** went a combined 12-0 over the course of a weekend for the first time ever. The average score of the games was 45-17. Four of the opponents (including Eastern Washington, which pushed Colorado before falling late, 31-24, came from NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (formerly known as Division I-AA).

One-time Nebraska commit Blaine Gabbert burned his redshirt in **MISSOURI'S** second game, a 52-3 blowout of Southeast Missouri State. The freshman from Ballwin, Mo., rated the nation's top pro-style quarterback prospect last year, started the second half and ended up completing three of eight passes for 64 yards.

In the same game, linebacker Sean Weatherspoon became the first Tiger to get a 'pick six' (interception return for a touchdown) in consecutive games.

Todd Reesing's 412-yard passing performance in **KANSAS'** 29-0 win against Louisiana Tech was No. 3 all-time at KU. The last Jayhawk to hit 400 was Adam Barmann, in an overtime loss at Nebraska in 2006.

During Reesing's big performance, Kansas kicked a field goal on its first possession to mark the first time in 16 games it had scored on an opening drive.

OKLAHOMA freshman receiver Ryan Broyles, suspended last season after being arrested for stealing gas, showed that he's got plenty in his tank. Broyles had 141 yards in his Sooners debut, a 52-26 win against Cincinnati. He'd been held out of the opener for unspecified reasons.

Not to be outdone by its intra-state rival,

OKLAHOMA STATE produced a 200-yard rusher (Kendall Hunter) and 200-yard receiver (Dez Bryant) in the same game for the first time ever during its 56-37 win against Houston. Amazingly, the Cowboys trailed that contest at halftime.

TEXAS TECH produced some eye-opening numbers during its 35-19 win at Nevada.

For starters, the Red Raiders' defense gave up 488 yards. But of the 10 drives that penetrated their 30-yard line, they allowed just one touchdown and four field goals.

While **COLORADO** struggled to beat Eastern Washington, Buffalo fans have to like what they're seeing of sophomore Cody Hawkins. Criticized for his 15 interceptions last season, Hawkins came out of the Eastern Washington contest having improved his career total of TD passes thrown from inside the red zone to 19, compared to just one pick from the same area of the field.

Want to know how Gene Chizik became the first **IOWA STATE** coach since Donnie Duncan in 1980 to start off 2-0 in his second season? Look no further than the Cyclones' nation-high 10 takeaways.

BAYLOR had no chance of starting 2-0 after losing its opener to Wake Forest. But by following that with a 51-6 trouncing of Northwestern State, the Bears moved to 14-0 in their last 14 games against Division I-AA opponents.

After **TEXAS A&M** backup quarterback Jerrod Johnson relieved the injured Stephen McGee to throw a touchdown pass on his first attempt at New Mexico, Johnson's career passing line stood: 3-for-7 with three TDs. Johnson would add two more scoring tosses to help the Aggies to a 28-22 win.

And look no further than the first offensive play of Kansas State's first two games if you want to know what sparked the Wildcats. In both cases, they scored touchdowns.



Niles Paul

6-1, 210, Sophomore, WR, Omaha, Neb.

The first time Niles Paul touched the ball this season was on a second-quarter punt return in the opener against Western Michigan. The ball bounced, and he could have let it go. But Ron Brown's words "ran through my mind," he said.

Brown, the tight ends coach, discourages fair catches, plus "he doesn't want us to let it bounce," said Paul, who decided he needed to make something happen even though he hadn't been able to get to the 38-yard punt to catch it.

"I felt like being a daredevil," he said.

So he fielded the ball on one hop and

carried it to the Western Michigan 47-yard line before being forced out of bounds. The return was 28 yards.

Paul also is returning kickoffs this season. His 85-yard return for a game-turning touchdown against San Jose State drew considerably more attention than that first punt return the week before. Nevertheless, he prefers returning punts "because it's your world; you get to do whatever you want," he said.

Specifically, he wants to return the punt, or the kickoff, for a touchdown. "I want to try to make a big play on a return every game," he said.



HI: If a genie granted you two wishes, how would you use them?

PAUL: That's a hard question because everything that has happened to me kind of molded me. But my first wish would be that my mom was still alive. And my second wish would be that I was 6-6.

HI: If you started a band, what would you call it and what kind of music would you play?

PAUL: I would call it the Untouchables, why I don't know. It just sounds like a good name. And it would be a hip-hop band.

HI: Marvin Harrison or Terrell Owens?

PAUL: TO, baby, I like watching TO play all the time. He's the type of receiver I'm trying to be, that big, physical receiver.

HI: What is your most embarrassing moment in an athletic contest?

PAUL: It would have to be in high school in a basketball game when I was a junior. I went up and I tried to windmill (dunk). I completely choked. I missed the rim. Coach pulled me out and told me I wasn't concentrating. He was laughing under his breath. Everybody was laughing. I was kind of laughing at myself, too. I got one my senior year, never tried another one my junior year.

HI: What's the toughest class you've taken at Nebraska?

PAUL: I was in it for a week, Macro-economics. Our teacher told us nobody was going to get an A or a B. He said most of us were going to get D's and F's. So I dropped it. I picked up Social Problems.

HI: What will you absolutely not eat?

PAUL: Okra, I hate okra. My dad and my mom used to force me to eat it when I was little. I'd throw it up.

HI: Day games or night games?

PAUL: Day games because you can play earlier and it doesn't go on (for) what you do that night. If you want to be with your family, you can do that. And you don't have all day just sitting in the room.

HI: If teammates from outside the state came to visit you in Omaha, what would you show them?

PAUL: I wouldn't want to show them any cornfields, I know that. I would show them my high school. I would show them where I grew up. And I would take them where my family lives now.

HI: Alicia Keys or Beyonce?

PAUL: Alicia Keys, no questions asked.

HI: Other than pro football what would your ideal job be?

PAUL: I would love to manage a company, my own business, or something in communications. I like to talk a lot. You might not tell right now but I'm definitely a chatterbox. I can talk myself out of any situation unless I'm in trouble with the coaches.



Dusty Alves

He's no Carl Pelini...

It happens a lot. Someone will approach Dusty Alves and say, "Hello, Carl."

Alves and Nebraska defensive coordinator Carl Pelini bear a striking resemblance.

"I hear that so much, it's not even funny," said Alves, who joined the Nebraska football staff as video coordinator in July of 2007. "It's kind of amazing. The new coaching staff came in in January, and I still had staff members with the athletic department that would come up to me and say, 'Hey, Carl, it's great to have you back.' I'd say, 'Look, I'm Dusty, the video guy, and I've already been here for six months.'"

"It's kind of an ongoing joke around here."

The 44-year-old Alves, a native of Potter, Neb., is responsible for operating

Nebraska's state-of-the-art football video facility. He coordinates and implements the use of video technology for practices, games, recruiting and assisting the coaching staff in creating game strategies and scouting.

After playing wide receiver at Kearney State College, Alves in 1987 took a job as assistant video director with the Denver Broncos. In 1991, he was named director of sports video for the University of Colorado, and later served as video director for the San Diego Chargers.

At one point in his career, Alves was out of football, working as United Airlines' director of video operations. Around that time, with the airlines industry struggling, he started his own business as a consultant helping college programs and larger high schools set up or

enhance video departments.

He also has worked as an official for high school football games, using his video experience to create a "high-tech" way of learning for fellow officials. Right before he accepted his job at Nebraska, he had just passed an exam required to become an NCAA football official, though his focus now is on his job at NU.

He took over his current position after applying twice before – in both 2004 and 2005. He was hired in July of 2007 by Tim Cassidy, Nebraska's former associate athletic director for football.

"Without a doubt, of all the different places I've been, this is definitely the best place I've been, as far as people-wise, technology and rich football tradition. I mean, it's everything wrapped into one."



Catching up with BY MIKE BABCOCK

Mike Tranmer

Former co-captain was definition of a walk-on

Folks find it difficult to believe, but it's true. Mike Tranmer was still paying his own way to play football at Nebraska when he was a senior, even though he was a starter and a co-captain. "I always tell friends, 'If you ever want to win with a Nebraska trivia question, just ask: Who's the only captain that didn't have a scholarship in modern-day football?' Not many people are going to have the answer. A few do," he said. "And I wonder what they do at night except study Nebraska football history."

Those who don't remember need only do a little study to learn that Tranmer was the epitome of a determined, hard-working walk-on. He came from Lyons (Neb.) High, was third-team on the freshman squad and didn't earn a letter until his junior season.

He didn't complain about not getting a scholarship as a senior. Coach Tom Osborne told him there were none available and that was good enough.

"Besides my parents, Coach Osborne had the most influence on my life," said Tranmer.

Defensive coordinator and his position coach Charlie McBride was in that discussion, too. "The thing about Charlie is, when you played for him, you didn't realize how

MIKE TRANMER

LETTERS: 1982-83

POSITION: Middle Guard

CURRENT: Pfizer pharmaceutical operations manager Lincoln, Neb.; volunteer assistant football coach, Wahoo (Neb.) Neumann High School
WIFE: Lisa

CHILDREN: Mitch (22), Jake (21), Jordan (13)

much he cared for you," Tranmer said.



Huskers look to replenish D-line depth

BY RICK SHAW

It's often said that a team's success on the football field starts on the line. With that, it's not surprising that the Nebraska coaches are looking to snag at least four defensive tackle prospects in their 2010 recruiting class.

The Huskers will lose three of their top four tackles to graduation over the next two seasons, including current starters **TY STEINKUHLER** (senior) and **NDAMUKONG SUH** (junior) and top backup **SHUKREE BARFIELD** (senior). Though Nebraska has some young talent in the program, numbers and depth at the tackle position will be slim heading into 2009.

The Husker coaching staff made big strides towards shoring up that deficiency earlier this year, landing commitments from two high school defensive tackles. **COLE PENSICK**, a 6-2, 250-pound prospect out of Lincoln (Neb.) Northeast and **THADDEUS RANDLE**, a 6-1, 255-pound standout out of Galena Park (Texas) North Shore, are already on the 'Big Red' pledge list. Pensick is rated the No. 80 defensive tackle prospect in the country (three-stars) by Rivals.com while Randle ranks No. 73 at the position.

LATU HEIMULI, a 6-3, 305-pounder out of Salt Lake City (Utah) Highland, is yet another defensive tackle being heavily pursued by the Nebraska staff. Rated the No. 29 defensive tackle prospect in the country (four-stars) and the nation's 'Best run stuffer' by Rivals.com, the Utah standout said he considers the Huskers one of his top college options.

"I will say that I really like Nebraska, Washington State and Oregon State," Heimuli said. "I'm hoping to get up to Nebraska for an unofficial visit sometime in September or October. I really like their

program - their tradition. I like how Lincoln, Nebraska gets packed every single Saturday. I'm anxious to see it."

"Coach (Ted) Gilmore and coach (Carl) Pelini are the coaches recruiting me for (Nebraska). They say that they'll have a lot of open slots on the defensive line next year, so there would be the opportunity for me as a freshman to come in and play. That would be cool."

Heimuli, who claims scholarship offers from Arizona, Arizona State, BYU, Colorado, Nebraska, Oregon State, Utah, Washington and Washington State, was a first-team all-state honoree as a junior. He tallied 54 tackles and five sacks during the 2007 slate.

Corona (Calif.) Centennial prospect **WILLIAM SUTTON** is another tackle giving the Huskers a long, hard look. With scholarship offers on the table from Boise State, Fresno State, Nebraska, Nevada, San Diego State and UNLV and heavy interest from schools such as Arizona State, UCLA and Washington, the 6-0, 250-



pound lineman has plenty of college options. He admits, however, that the Huskers are one of the 'teams to beat' for his signature to a letter of intent in February.

"My favorites right now would be UCLA, Nebraska and Boise State," Sutton said. "With Nebraska, our quarterback **TAYLOR MARTINEZ** just committed there and he told me a lot of good things about the school. He told me that it was located in a great area and that the coaches were all really cool. I like the fact that they play in a real good conference. I'm just anxious to get out there sometime this fall and see it all for myself."

Rated the No. 51 defensive tackle prospect in the country and the No. 43 overall prospect in California by Rivals.com (three-stars), the cat-quick Sutton earned first-team all-league and first-team all-CIF honors as a junior after racking up 70 tackles, four sacks and a

"I REALLY

like their program - their tradition. I like how Lincoln, Nebraska gets packed every single Saturday. I'm anxious to see it."

**DEFENSIVE TACKLE
RECRUIT LATU HEIMULI**

fumble recovery.

Nebraska hopes to continue the recruiting momentum they've built up down in the state of Texas by pulling blue-chip defensive tackle **SIOSAIA TUIPULOTU** into the fold. Rated the nation's No. 42 defensive tackle and the No. 49 overall prospect in the state (three-stars) by Rivals.com, the Euless (Texas) Trinity standout took an official visit to Nebraska on Sept. 5 along with teammate (and current Husker commit) **DONTRAYEVIOUS ROBINSON**. Though he's not yet ready to end his recruitment, Tuipulotu said the Huskers are going to be a tough school to beat for his pledge.

"I just like Nebraska because of the way they play defense," Tuipulotu said. "I've read the information that they've sent me and have talked with coach (Tim) Beck and I know they've sent a lot of defensive lineman to the NFL over the years. Plus, my good friend Dontrayevous is going up there and it would be great to continue playing with him in college."

"They are probably my favorite right now. Louisville would be right in there too. I was originally planning to commit early but after talking to some people, I think I want to take all of my visits before making anything final."

Boasting scholarship tenders from BYU, Fresno State, Louisville, Nebraska, Purdue, SMU, UNLV and Utah, Tuipulotu is one of the more talented defensive line prospects in the Lone Star State for 2008. He earned first-team all-district honors as a junior after logging 78 tackles and 13 sacks. His offer



sheet would probably be more extensive if not for the fact that he likely won't set foot on a college campus until the fall of 2011. A member of the LDS church, Tuipulotu plans to take a two-year mission directly after graduating from high school.

"Some schools backed away from me a little bit when they heard about that," Tuipulotu said. "However, the schools currently recruiting me have all told me that they are ok with me taking my mission. They are all supportive. That's not going to be an issue."

Another defensive tackle prospect to keep an eye on from the state of Nebraska is **ERIC CUMMINGS** (6-2, 255-pounds) of Omaha Burke. Rated the No. 10 prospect in the state by Rivals, Cummings turned in a solid performance at the Husker's summer camp and, with a good senior season, could earn himself an offer from the 'Big Red'.

A first-team all-district pick as a junior, Cummings possesses a good blend of strength

(356-pound bench press) and quickness (4.8-second 40-yard dash).

The Huskers already hold commitments from two defensive tackle prospects in their recruiting class of 2010. They'd like to add two more. The Nebraska coaches understand that future defensive success will be depend upon their strength and depth in the trenches. **N**



COMMITTED



BIG AND GETTING BIGGER

Though listed by Rivals.com as a 6-7, 270-pound offensive tackle prospect, Denton (Texas) Guyer Nebraska commit **JESS COFFEY** says today he stands at 6-8.

Regardless of growth and a successful senior season thus far, the soft spoken Coffey says that he remains firmly committed to Nebraska. He attended the first Husker game this season and got a chance to talk with the fellow visitors on campus, including fellow Texas offensive line commit Nick Ash.

They did have similar reasons as to why they both chose NU.

"It was kind of the same," Coffey said about talking with Ash and why he and the Keller offensive lineman chose the Huskers. "It was just, the tradition is so strong at Nebraska and we both saw that. Besides that, it was just the little things."

Today, Coffey says making that July commitment to the Big Red was a big deal because he can focus on his senior season going forward. He is very focused on the last season of high school football and helping his teammates go far before his graduation, but the visit to Nebraska during game day was certainly a highlight.

"When I went up there for the game, I proved myself right with that visit," he said about his commitment. "It was pretty much the game itself. You can't beat the Sea of Red. It really was an amazing experience, the pre-game, during the game even, even post-game there were still people around...."

"The experience is just amazing."

by John Talman, Recruiting Publisher
HuskersIllustrated.com

Kinnie high on Huskers

by Sean Stevens

Public knowledge of Nebraska's recruiting efforts thus far have centered on high school prospects, however fans should be aware that coach Bo Pelini's staff will also target junior college players. Three players who are on the Huskers' radar hail from Fort Scott (Kan.) Community College.

Wide receiver **BRANDON KINNIE** (6-3/215) had already seen Lincoln on an unofficial visit over the summer, but the game day atmosphere in the fall gave him a different perspective.

"The only thing I hadn't seen was a game in action and everybody just kept saying it was going to be crazy," Kinnie said. "It was everything I expected and heard of. I really enjoyed myself a whole lot."

NU holds a strong lead for Kinnie's commitment; however he's not ready to finalize things just yet.

"Like I told the coaches, I'm really wanting to be here – this is the only school that I'm high on with interest. I just want to make the right choice and don't want to jump in to it too fast," he said. "I kept telling coach Gilmore, I don't want you to

think I'm leading (you on)," he said. "I'm really big on them with high interest. I just don't want to jump into it. I don't plan on taking anymore visits. I took an unofficial to Kansas, an unofficial to Arkansas...I'm 85 percent sure (on Nebraska), but I just want to wait and don't want to rush things."

Kinnie redshirted his freshman year at Fort Scott and will enter the Division I level with three years of eligibility remaining. **N**



SIDELINES

KINNIE'S TEAMMATES

Kinnie's teammates – linebacker **JACQUAIN WILLIAMS** (6-4/220) and defensive end **JASON PIERRE-PAUL** (6-6/265) – made the trip with him. Both entered with open minds, but were leaning away from Nebraska.

"I'm looking more toward South Florida," Williams said. "I like how the coach talked to me when I was in high school. He told me he'd come and get me when I was done with junior college, and we've stayed in touch together. I remember that. But I want to see what it's like more at Nebraska for sure."

Pierre-Paul grew up in Broward County, Fla. and didn't start playing football until his junior year of high school. After signing with Central Florida, he attended College of the Canyons in California where he was all-conference as a freshman with 49 tackles and 14 sacks before transferring to Fort Scott.

According to Kinnie his teammates are more open to Nebraska after meeting with the Husker head coach.

"He talked about just how they wanted us up here and how the team could use us. Jason and Jacquain were really big on going back home, but I think after coach Pelini talked to all three of us it made them think a lot more," he said. "They both talked to me and told me that they see things differently now. After talking with him and him really laying it all out, about what's real and what you see is what you get, they were digging that."

2009 Nebraska Commitment List

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (High School)
Nick Ash	OL	6-5	261	Keller, Texas (Keller)
Shawn Bodtmann	OLB	6-0	205	Scranton, Pa. (West Scranton)
DeAndre Byrd	CB	5-10	170	Tallahassee, Fla. (Lincoln)
Jess Coffey	OL	6-7	270	Denton, Texas (Guyer)
Emerson Evans	DE	6-1	230	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)
Cody Green	QB	6-4	220	Dayton, Texas (Dayton)
Taylor Martinez	ATH	6-0	176	Corona, Calif. (Centennial)
Cole Pensick	DL	6-2	250	Lincoln, Neb. (Northeast)
Thaddeus Randle	DL	6-1	255	Galena Park, Texas (North Shore)
Dontrayevous Robinson	RB	6-1	215	Eules, Texas (Trinity)
Brent Qvale	OL	6-7	300	Williston, N.D. (Williston)
C.J. Zimmerer	FB	6-0	213	Omaha, Neb. (Omaha Gross)



**ARMANDO MURILLO PICKS
OFF NEW MEXICO STATE'S
CHASE HOLBROOK IN THE
SECOND QUARTER**

**NEW MEXICO STATE 7
NEBRASKA 38**

Deflating the Aggies

Despite a proven track record blocking kicks, Nebraska defensive end Zach Potter insists there isn't much skill involved.

At 6-foot-7 and with a long wing span, Potter said he simply utilizes his size and physical abilities and hopes for a little luck. Three times in his career, the senior has found the right combination.

Block No. 3 came against New Mexico State as Potter stonewalled a 20-yard field-goal attempt by Kyle Hughes, thwarting a prime scoring opportunity for the Aggies on their first possession of the game.

"I just got good pressure on the guard and I got my hand in the right spot," Potter said. "There's no technique, really."

Nevertheless, Potter had two blocks during his freshman year in 2005, and both were significant. He blocked a field-goal attempt in a 7-6 victory over Pittsburgh and also blocked a point-after try in a 27-25 win over Kansas State.

While some may dispute that the turning point in Nebraska's 38-7 victory could have come on the game's first series, that might have been the case. Surprising the Husker defense with some new wrinkles, quarterback Chase Holbrook marched his team from its own 20-yard line to the NU 2 where New Mexico State had first-and-goal.

Presumably already disappointed with having to settle for a field-goal attempt, Potter said it appeared to be a major blow to New Mexico State when it came away with nothing on its best drive of the night.

"It totally took the wind out of their



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

Zach Potter blocked his third career kick in the first quarter against New Mexico State.

sails," Potter said. "They had a great drive on us and we did some things wrong on that first drive, but the field-goal block was big."

After their opening-drive threat, the Aggies didn't score until Marque Colston's 3-yard touchdown run with 12:31 to play. By then, Nebraska led 35-0.

"A spark early in the game is more

important than anything," Nebraska tackle Lydon Murtha said. "When you're down and not making plays and then something good happens and sparks the team, that's good. But when you're out there making plays and doing something good right at the beginning, the whole game changes." **N**

— by Terry Douglass

PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN



The Blackshirts rattled the Aggies helmets all night.



Bo (left) and Carl Pelini corner head linesman Mike Moeller to protest a call.

PHOTOS BY RANDY HAMPTON



Left: Ndamukong Suh forces a fumble. Right: Quentin Castille rushed for 75 yards on 10 carries.

REPORT CARD

RUSHING:

A

Facing an unorthodox defensive scheme designed to confuse, Nebraska simplified its running-game package with impressive results. Tackle **LYDON MURTHA'S** return can't be underestimated and I-back **MARLON LUCKY** looked sharp. The option play has returned.

PASSING:

A

While quarterback **JOE GANZ** wasn't prolific, he was efficient, going 13-for-17 for 158 yards and a touchdown in three quarters of work. Lucky again showed his flair for the I-back option pass, tossing his third career TD.

RUSHING DEFENSE:

A

New Mexico State showed more of a commitment to the running game than some might have expected, rushing 32 times for 114 yards. Despite some new wrinkles, Nebraska kept the Aggies' ground attack under control.

PASSING DEFENSE:

A-

Only New Mexico State's first drive prevented a higher mark. The Aggies, who ranked fifth nationally in passing offense in 2007, completed just 48.7 percent of their attempts for 225 yards — 106 yards below last year's average.

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS:

B

New flash: **ALEX HENERY** finally missed a kick, booting a 35-yard attempt wide right on Nebraska's opening drive. The sophomore, who had hit the first 12 field-goal attempts of his college career, later converted a 19-yard field goal.



Tight end Mike McNeill somersaults into the end zone.

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



TRIPLE THREAT

JOE GANZ wasn't the first. **JOHNNY RODGERS** was. And Ganz wasn't the second. **ERIC CROUCH** was. "But I'll take third," Ganz said. "Those guys aren't bad company, I guess."

Rodgers and Crouch both won the Heisman Trophy. And, like Ganz, both ran for a touchdown, threw a touchdown pass and caught a touchdown pass in the same game, Rodgers against Notre Dame in the 1973 Orange Bowl, Crouch against California in 1999.

The first of the three for Ganz was the least likely, catching a touchdown pass. I-back **MARLON LUCKY** threw the pass early in the second quarter. The play covered 20 yards, most of them through the air.

The play looked like a sweep to the right, with Lucky pulling up and passing back across the field.

The first time they ran the play in practice, Lucky threw the ball out of bounds. The second time was better. And "today was

perfect, hit me right in stride," said Ganz.

"He's just money when you turn on the lights, especially throwing the ball."

Lucky is 3-of-5 passing, all three going for touchdowns. He teamed with **NATE SWIFT** on a 25-yard touchdown pass against Texas in 2006, and with **SEAN HILL** on a 20-yard touchdown pass against Iowa State last season.

Ganz ran 33 yards for a touchdown later in the second quarter and then teamed with tight end **MIKE MCNEILL** on a 35-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter.

Had Lucky caught a touchdown pass, he and Ganz both would have accomplished the rare triple.

ALMOST A SHUTOUT

Nebraska and New Mexico State had played twice previously, with the Cornhuskers winning 57-0 in 1979 and 68-0 in 1982. If not for a mishandled exchange from center and 48-yard return of the resulting fumble, the Aggies wouldn't have scored in this game,

either. The return gave them first-and-goal at the Nebraska 3-yard line.

"I think defensively, we'll still consider it a shutout," Cornhusker defensive end **ZACH POTTER** said.

SILENCE IS GOLDEN

New Mexico State cornerback Davon House said the Aggies' wide receivers were "10 times" better than Nebraska's receivers. Cornhusker wide receivers **NATE SWIFT** and **TODD PETERSON** declined comment at Tuesday's news conference. The numbers didn't support House's assertion.

IMMEDIATE IMPACT

Redshirted freshman cornerback **LANCE THORELL**, a walk-on from Loomis, Neb., saw the first significant action of his Cornhusker career. He responded with eight tackles, second on the team to safety Eric Hagg's 10. "He was an important cog in the game plan tonight," coach **BO PELINI** said of Thorell. "We asked him to learn a lot. He needed to



PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN

WHAT A RUSH

Nebraska rushed for 330 yards, the first time it has run for 200 or more yards since the Oklahoma State game last season and the most since opening last season with 413 yards on the ground against Nevada. The Cornhuskers rushed for 300 or more yards only two other times since the start of the 2004 season, 363 against Western Illinois in 2004 and 316 against Troy in 2006.

play well, and he stepped up. It was fun to watch. My hat's off to him . . . because we put a lot on his shoulders."

Thorell was the "dime" defensive back, replacing weakside linebacker Cody Glenn.

SHEDDING A REDSHIRT

True freshman defensive end **CAMERON MEREDITH** saw his first action at Nebraska, entering the game with 7:04 remaining in the first half. It appeared he would be redshirted, but not after **BARRY TURNER** was lost for the season with a broken bone in his left leg and ligament damage. Meredith had to change jersey numbers. He had been listed as No. 34, the same as linebacker **CODY GLENN**. He wore No. 96 against New Mexico State.

MORE CONCERN AT END

Sophomore **PIERRE ALLEN** got his first career start at defensive end, stepping in for **BARRY TURNER**, who has been lost for the season. Allen limped off and was taken to the locker room early in the second quarter, for x-rays. The x-rays were negative, according to coach **BO PELINI**. "We probably could have used him in the second half if we thought we needed him," said Pelini. "He'll be back. It's probably day to day."



WALK-ONS NO MORE

Tight end **HUNTER TEAFATILLER** and free safety **MATT O'HANLON** (above) were awarded scholarships the week before the San Jose State game. Teafatiller is a senior, O'Hanlon a junior, although he is listed as a senior in the media guide. Before the Western Michigan game, O'Hanlon learned he would have another season of eligibility. Though he began his college career at South Dakota, he transferred to Nebraska before classes began. O'Hanlon notched his first career interception against New Mexico State.

AMONG THE MISSING

Fullback **THOMAS LAWSON'S** missed the game after undergoing an appendectomy. Cornerback **ANTHONY WEST** watched the game on the sideline in street clothes. And safety **RICKEY THENARSE** was available but didn't play. He suffered a shoulder injury in the opener.

QUICKLY



» This week's Cornhusker captains were I-back **MARLON LUCKY**, tight end **HUNTER TEAFATILLER** (pictured) defensive end **ZACH POTTER** and long snapper **T.J. O'LEARY**, all seniors. O'Leary began his college career at New Mexico State.

» Sophomore **ALEX HENERY** missed a 35-yard field goal in the first quarter. The miss was his first at Nebraska. He had made 12 in a row, including four this season. He made a 19-yarder in the fourth quarter.

» The Cornhuskers have won 20 consecutive games against Western Athletic Conference opponents, and they are 21-1 all time against the WAC.

» Yes, New Mexico State senior linebacker La'Auli Fonoti is the brother of former Cornhusker **TONIU FONOTI**.

» Nebraska held New Mexico State scoreless in the first half, marking the first time in 23 games the Huskers shut out an opponent in the first half, dating back to 2006 at Kansas State when NU led 14-0 at the half.

SUMMARY

SCORING

Sept. 13, 2008
Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.
Attendance: 84,821

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Tot
New Mexico State	0	0	0	7	7
Nebraska	7	14	14	3	38

FIRST QUARTER

First Quarter

	NMS	NU
NU Lucky 8-yard Run (Henery Kick) 00:13 Drive: 6 plays 89 yds 2:24	0	7

Second Quarter

NU Ganz 20-yard pass from Lucky (Henery Kick) 12:52 Drive: 1 play 20 yds 0:08	0	14
NU Ganz 33-yard run (Henery Kick) 07:11 Drive: 6 plays 89 yds 2:43	0	21

Third Quarter

NU Lucky 1-yard run (Henery Kick) 12:01 Drive: 6 plays 76 yds 2:53	0	28
NU McNeill 35-yard pass from Ganz (Henery Kick) 5:01 Drive: 4 plays 62 yds 1:24	0	35

Fourth Quarter

NMS Colston 3-yard Run (Hughes Kick) 12:31 Drive: 1 plays 3 yds 0:04	7	35
NU Henery 19-yard Field Goal 08:15 Drive: 9 plays 52 yds 4:11	7	38

TEAM STATS

	NMS	NU
Total First Downs	19	28
Rushing	7	15
Passing	9	12
Penalty	3	1
Rushing Attempts	32	44
Yards Gained Rushing	141	345
Yards Lost Rushing	27	15
Net Yards Rushing	114	330
Net Yards Passing	225	223
Passes Attempted	39	24
Passes Completed	19	18
Had Intercepted	2	0
Percent Completion	48.7%	75.0%
Yards per Attempt	5.8	9.3
Yards per Completion	11.8	12.4
Total Offensive Plays	71	68
Total Net Yards	339	553
Avg. Gain Per Play	4.8	8.1
Fumbles: No-Lost	3-0	2-1
Penalties: No-Yards	7-50	7-41
Punts: No-Yards	5-184	1-39
Avg. Per Punt	36.8	39.0
Avg. Net Punt	35.8	39.0
Punt Returns: No-Yards	1-0	1-5
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	6-129	2-29
Interception Returns: No-Yards	0-0	2-78
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	1-48	0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	9
Possession Time	28:54	31:06
Third-Down Conversions	7-17	5-10
Percentage	41.2%	50.0%
Fourth-Down Conversions	0-1	0-2
Percentage	0.0%	0.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	0-0	3-23

OFFENSIVE INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Lucky	15	108	5	103	6.9	2	58
Castille	10	78	3	75	7.5	0	17
Ganz	5	70	1	69	13.8	1	33
Mendoza	3	35	2	33	11.0	0	35
Helu Jr.	7	35	3	32	4.6	0	14
Swift	1	16	0	16	16.0	0	16
Peterson	1	2	0	2	2.0	0	2
Witt	2	1	1	0	0.0	0	1
Total	44	345	15	330	7.5	3	58

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Ganz	17	13	76.5	0	158	1	35
Witt	4	3	75.0	0	40	0	23
Lucky	1	1	100.0	0	20	1	20
Lee	2	1	50.0	0	5	0	5
Total	24	18	75.0	0	223	2	35

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
McNeill	2	57	1	35
Peterson	4	34	0	15
Teafattiller	3	27	0	15
Castille	1	23	0	23
Lucky	3	21	0	13
Ganz	1	20	1	20
Helu Jr.	1	16	0	16
Paul	1	10	0	10
Swift	1	10	0	10
Cammack	1	5	0	5
Total	18	223	2	35

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Swift	1	5	0	5
Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Paul	2	29	0	18

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TD	FC	50+	In 20
Titchener	1	39.0	39	0	0	0	0	1

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Henery	1	2	19	0

Defense	Solo	Asst	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Hagg	9	1	10	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Thorell	3	5	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Amukamara	3	3	6	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Murillo	4	2	6	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Dillard	1	4	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Glenn	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Suh	3	1	4	2-15	2-15	0	1	0
Allen	1	2	3	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Potter	2	1	3	1-8	1-8	1	0	0
Lawrence	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
O'Hanlon	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Asante	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Barfield	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cammack	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cassidy	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Castille	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Crick	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Helu Jr.	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Holt	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Koehler	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Martin	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Moore	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Sievers	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Yancy	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Murillo	1	57	0	57
O'Hanlon	1	21	0	21
Total	2	78	0	57

NEW MEXICO STATE

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Colston	8	48	3	45	5.6	1	22
Opetaia	7	39	0	39	5.6	0	12
Neiman	3	30	0	30	10.0	0	15
Glynn	3	6	0	6	2.0	0	3
Perez	3	6	1	5	1.7	0	5
McDermott	2	4	0	4	2.0	0	3
Roberts	1	2	0	2	2.0	0	2
Holbrook	5	6	23	-17	-3.4	0	6
Total	32	141	27	114	3.6	1	22

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Holbrook	30	15	50.0	2	142	0	18
McDermott	8	4	50.0	0	83	0	55
Neiman	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Total	39	19	48.7	2	225	0	55

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Fleming	2	60	0	55
Williams	4	42	0	15
Neiman	4	36	0	17
Anderson	2	32	0	18
Harris	4	27	0	16
McDaniel	1	21	0	21
Colston	1	5	0	5
Buckley	1	2	0	2
Total	19	225	0	55

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Williams	1	0	0	0

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Fleming	4	76	0	23
Anderson	1	33	0	33
Williams	1	20	0	20
Total	6	129	0	33

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TD	FC	50+	In 20
Hughes	5	36.8	50	0	0	1	1	1

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Hughes	0	1	0	1

Defense	Solo	Asst	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Richardson	7	10	17	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Scott	5	5	10	2-5	0-0	0	0	0
House	6	2	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Baumont	2	5	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Conner	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Fonoti	1	3	4	1-3	0-0	0	0	0
Zant	3	1	4	1-4	0-0	0	0	0
Betts	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	1	0	1
Long	0	3	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Paden	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Powell	0	3	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Anderson	1	1	2	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Butler	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cotton	0	2	2	0-1	0-0	0	0	0
Colston	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Grady	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Harris	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Nelson	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Shook	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Waters	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
	0	0	0	0

NEBRASKA SEASON LEADERS

Rushing	G	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Lucky, Marlon	3	34	185	16	169	5.0	4	58	56.3
Helu Jr., Roy	3	23	150	7	143	6.2	1	27	47.7
Ganz, Joe	3	17	132	27	105	6.2	1	33	35.0
Castille, Quentin	3	22	92	5	87	4.0	1	17	29.0
Total	3	105	625	58	567	5.4	7	58	189.0
Opponent	G	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
	3	89	328	95	233	2.6	3	24	77.7

Passing	G	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Ganz, Joe	3	78	50	64.1	3	719	5	61	239.7
Total	3	87	56	64.4	3	784	6	61	261.3
Opponent	G	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg	Yd/G
	3	123	70	56.9	5	809	2	55	269.7

Receiving	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Swift, Nate	3	12	201	16.8	2	61	67.0
Peterson, Todd	3	11	127	11.5	0	21	42.3
Holt, Menelik	3	7	83	11.9	0	25	27.7
Lucky, Marlon	3	5	56	11.2	1	19	18.7
Total	3	56	784	14.0	6	61	261.3
Opponent	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
	3	70	809	11.6	2	55	269.7

Int Ret	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Murillo, Armando	3	1	57	57.0	0	57	19.0
Suh, Ndamukong	3	1	49	49.0	1	49	16.3
West, Anthony	2	1	26	26.0	0	26	13.0
O'Hanlon, Matt	3	1	21	21.0	0	21	7.0
Potter, Zach	3	1	11	11.0	0	11	3.7
Total	3	5	164	32.8	1	57	54.7



2008 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sat., Aug. 30	Western Michigan	Memorial Stadium	W, 47-24
Sat., Sept. 6	San Jose State	Memorial Stadium	W, 35-12
Sat., Sept. 13	New Mexico State	Memorial Stadium	W, 38-7
Sat., Sept. 27	Virginia Tech	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Oct. 4	Missouri	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Oct. 11	Texas Tech	at Lubbock, Texas	TBA
Sat., Oct. 18	Iowa State	at Ames, Iowa	TBA
Sat., Oct. 25	Baylor	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Nov. 1	Oklahoma	at Norman, Okla.	TBA
Sat., Nov. 8	Kansas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Nov. 15	Kansas State	at Manhattan, Kan.	TBA
Fri., Nov. 28	Colorado	Memorial Stadium	2:30 p.m. (ABC)
Sat., Dec. 6	Big 12 Championship	at Kansas City, Mo. (Arrowhead Stadium)	7 p.m. (ABC)

FAN OF THE GAME



Roxanne Groff of Garland, Neb., cheers on the Huskers from row 99 in the north stadium. She is a season ticket holder and loves the view. "Best view in the house," she said.

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

NEBRASKA vs. VIRGINIA TECH



SEPTEMBER 27, 2008
TURKEY SEASON ARRIVES KIND OF EARLY THIS YEAR AS HUSKERS DO A LITTLE HOKIE HUNTING!

THIS WEEK'S PICKS



AARON BABCOCK, Editor

Last Week: (4-1) Season: (11-3)

Virginia Tech @ Nebraska	NU 24-17
West Virginia @ Colorado	WV 24-21
Kansas State @ Louisville	KSU 24-21
Miami @ Texas A&M	MIA 28-21
LSU @ Auburn	LSU 20-17



MIKE BABCOCK, Contributing Editor

Last Week: (5-0) Season: (13-1)

Virginia Tech @ Nebraska	NU 21-20
West Virginia @ Colorado	WV 31-20
Kansas State @ Louisville	KSU 28-24
Miami @ Texas A&M	MIA 17-13
LSU @ Auburn	LSU 24-21



TERRY DOUGLASS, Grand Island Independent

Last Week: (4-1) Season: (12-2)

Virginia Tech @ Nebraska	NU 20-17
West Virginia @ Colorado	CU 32-26
Kansas State @ Louisville	LOU 24-20
Miami @ Texas A&M	MIA 17-10
LSU @ Auburn	AUB 14-10



MATT DAVISON, Husker Sports Network

Last Week: (5-0) Season: (13-1)

Virginia Tech @ Nebraska	NU 24-13
West Virginia @ Colorado	CU 31-28
Kansas State @ Louisville	KSU 31-24
Miami @ Texas A&M	MIA 24-17
LSU @ Auburn	AUB 20-17



SEAN CALLAHAN, HuskersIllustrated.com

Last Week: (5-0) Season: (9-0)

Virginia Tech @ Nebraska	NU 24-20
West Virginia @ Colorado	WV 34-31
Kansas State @ Louisville	LOU 38-35
Miami @ Texas A&M	MIA 27-17
LSU @ Auburn	LSU 17-13



Cam Martin heart of Hokie defense

BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE

DEFENSIVE COACHES in the college game scour the country these days in search of players with the skills of Cam Martin, who tackles well in the open field.

With an increasing number of offenses spreading the field in an effort to create one-on-one matchups, a sure-tackling defender can be the difference between a short gain and a long touchdown by a receiver or running back.

"The position I play (whip linebacker), most of the time I'm in the open field one-on-one with a good athlete, and that's one of the hardest tackles to make in all of football," said Martin, a junior at Virginia Tech. "We work on it every day in practice. It is tough."

The 6-1, 210-pound Martin, of Martinsville, Va., started 13 of 14 games in 2007 and ranked fifth on the team in tackles with 78 and third in sacks with 4.5. He followed that performance with a strong showing in spring practice, emerging as a leader for a linebacker unit that lost to graduation two excellent players in Vince Hall and Xavier Adibi.

Martin – whose brother Orion Martin is a starting defensive end for Virginia Tech – began his college career as a safety, switching to linebacker in the spring of 2006. He played quarterback and safety at George Washington High School in Martinsville, "but my coaches always used to say I was a safety playing quarterback," Martin said.

"Defense always has been



FRANK BEAMER

COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH MEDIA RELATIONS

in my heart," he said. "I just played quarterback because I could do it and I guess I had pretty good leadership qualities. I did it because they needed me to do it."

Virginia Tech now needs Martin to help lead a defense that returned just four starters from a group that last season helped the Hokies capture the Atlantic Coast Conference crown and advance to the Orange Bowl, where they dropped a 24-21 decision to Kansas.

Virginia Tech in 2007 ranked fourth nationally in total defense, allowing 296.9 yards per game, and third in points allowed (16.07).

Tech got off to a rocky start this season, losing its opener 27-22 to East Carolina when the Pirates' T.J. Lee blocked a punt and returned it for a touchdown with 1 minute, 52 seconds remaining. Martin led the Hokies with 11 tackles on the day.

"I've never really been that much of vocal leader – I lead mostly by example," Martin

said. "But this season, when we're out there on the field in the heat of battle, there are a lot of young guys playing for the first time. If you see something that's not right, if you see some guys who aren't motivated, it's up to me, being one of the older guys on the defense, to fill more of a leadership role."

"But I'm still not a real vocal guy."

Cam's brother, Orion, is the only returning starter on Virginia Tech's defensive line. The 6-2, 252-pound athlete last season led the line in tackles with 58. During the off-season, he broke a 22-year-old school record for defensive ends with a 39-inch vertical jump. He joined the team in 2004 as a walk-on, with Cam arriving as a scholarship player in 2005.

Former Nebraska secondary coach Phil Elmassian tried to lure Cam Martin to Lincoln. But Elmassian faced a difficult climb to do so. You see, the Martin brothers grew up following the Hokies and attending their games in



VIRGINIA TECH QUICK FACTS

Head coach: Frank Beamer (209-108-4 in 27 seasons; 167-85-2 at VT in 21 seasons)
Enrollment: 30,000
Colors: Maroon and Orange
Conference: Atlantic Coast
2007 record: 11-3 (7-1 ACC)
Starters returning/lost: 11/17
Series record: Nebraska leads 1-0 (41-21, 1996 Orange Bowl)

2008 SCHEDULE

8/30 EAST CAROLINA, L 22-27
9/6 FURMAN, W 24-7
9/13 GEORGIA TECH, W 20-17
9/20 at North Carolina
9/27 at Nebraska
10/4 WESTERN KENTUCKY
10/18 at Boston College
10/25 at Florida State
11/6 MARYLAND
11/13 at Miami
11/22 DUKE
11/29 VIRGINIA

Blacksburg, Va., which is about a 75-minute drive from Martinsville.

"Orion and I played together ever since we were little," Cam said. "We used to sit in the stands and watch some of the great Tech defenses. We watched Michael Vick play. I remember when Donovan McNabb came to town with Syracuse."

"Looking back on it now and remembering the guys we used to watch, and now playing here on Saturdays, it's fun. I mean, I can't ask for anything more." **N**

VIRGINIA TECH ROSTER

#	QUARTERBACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
5	Tyrod Taylor	QB	6-1	206	So.
12	Cory Holtz	QB	6-4	215	RSr.
16	Jeff Beyer	QB	6-4	221	Jr.
7	Sean Glennon	QB	6-4	224	RSr.
#	OFFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
60	Beau Warren	C	6-3	281	RSr.
58	Ryan Shuman	C	6-3	293	RSr.
61	Barrett Mears	C	6-5	291	RSr.
68	Jaymes Brooks	OG	6-2	304	RFr.
69	Hivera Green	OG	6-3	304	RJr.
70	Sergio Render	OG	6-3	308	Jr.
67	Nick Marshman	OG	6-5	339	RSr.
65	Matt Baldwin	OG	6-6	299	RFr.
72	Andrew Lanier	OT	6-5	268	RFr.
62	Blake DeChristopher	OT	6-5	299	RFr.
77	Ed Wang	OT	6-5	310	RJr.
75	Greg Nosal	OT	6-6	281	RFr.
64	Richard Graham	OT	6-6	284	RJr.
63	Matt Tuttle	SN	6-0	228	RJr.
56	Jacob Gardner	SN	6-0	236	Sr.
50	Collin Carroll	SN	6-3	220	RFr.
#	RUNNING BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
31	Kenny Younger	FB	5-11	230	Jr.
44	Devin Perez	FB	5-8	239	RSr.
42	Kenny Jefferson	FB	5-9	209	RJr.
34	Ryan Williams	TB	5-9	204	Fr.
32	Darren Evans	TB	6-0	210	RFr.
35	Dustin Pickle	TB	5-10	185	Sr.
27	Jahre Cheeseman	TB	5-10	196	RJr.
25	Josh Oglesby	TB	5-11	211	RFr.
20	Kenny Lewis	TB	5-9	200	Jr.
#	RECEIVERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
83	Patrick Terry	FL	5-11	190	RFr.
85	Ervin Garner	FL	5-9	162	RFr.
37	Jacob Sykes	FL	6-0	189	RFr.
11	Dyrell Roberts	FL	6-1	183	Fr.
81	Jarrett Boykin	FL	6-2	201	Fr.
13	Xavier Boyce	FL	6-3	205	Fr.
19	Danny Coale	SE	6-0	203	RFr.
3	Ike Whitaker	SE	6-4	220	RJr.
87	Prince Parker	SE	6-5	236	RSr.
86	Chris Drager	TE	6-3	238	RFr.
18	Sam Wheeler	TE	6-3	266	RJr.
8	Greg Boone	TE	6-3	280	RJr.
98	Rob Stanton	TE	6-4	240	RSr.
88	Andre Smith	TE	6-4	260	RSr.
#	DEFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
51	Bruce Taylor	DE	6-1	241	Fr.
47	Nekos Brown	DE	6-2	245	Jr.
6	Jason Worilds	DE	6-2	254	RSr.
90	Orion Martin	DE	6-2	255	RSr.
92	Khalil Latif	DE	6-2	269	RFr.
82	Steven Friday	DE	6-4	240	RSr.
56	Demetrius Taylor	DT	6-0	256	RJr.
93	Kwamaine Battle	DT	6-0	271	RFr.
95	Cordarrow Thompson	DT	6-2	303	RJr.
96	Justin Young	DT	6-3	280	RFr.
91	John Graves	DT	6-3	282	RSr.
#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
21	Rashad Carmichael	CB	5-10	190	RSr.
9	Cris Hill	CB	5-11	183	RFr.
22	Stephan Virgil	CB	5-11	186	Jr.
15	Eddie Whitley	CB	6-0	179	Fr.
1	Victor Harris	CB	6-0	194	Sr.
14	Lorenzo Williams	FS	6-2	200	Fr.
17	Kam Chancellor	FS	6-4	224	Jr.
24	Dorian Porch	ROV	5-11	210	RJr.
2	Davon Morgan	ROV	6-0	196	So.
23	Matt Reidy	ROV	6-0	217	RJr.
#	LINEBACKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
45	Purnell Sturdivant	LB	5-10	225	RSr.
40	Hunter Owens	LB	5-11	203	RFr.
26	Cody Grimm	LB	5-11	207	RJr.
46	Dylan McGreevy	LB	5-11	212	Sr.
52	Barquell Rivers	LB	5-11	229	RFr.
94	Mark Muncey	LB	5-11	231	RJr.
89	Jonas Houseright	LB	6-0	224	RSr.
41	Cam Martin	LB	6-1	214	RJr.
38	Quillie Odom	LB	6-1	237	Fr.
33	Brett Warren	LB	6-1	237	RSr.
36	Jake Johnson	LB	6-1	238	Fr.
#	KICKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
97	Brent Bowden	P	6-3	202	RJr.
30	Brian Saunders	P/QB	6-0	206	RSr.
28	Tim Pisano	PK	5-9	169	RFr.
48	Justin Myer	PK	6-1	200	Fr.
29	Dustin Keys	PK	6-2	212	RSr.

NEBRASKA TENTATIVE 2-DEEPS

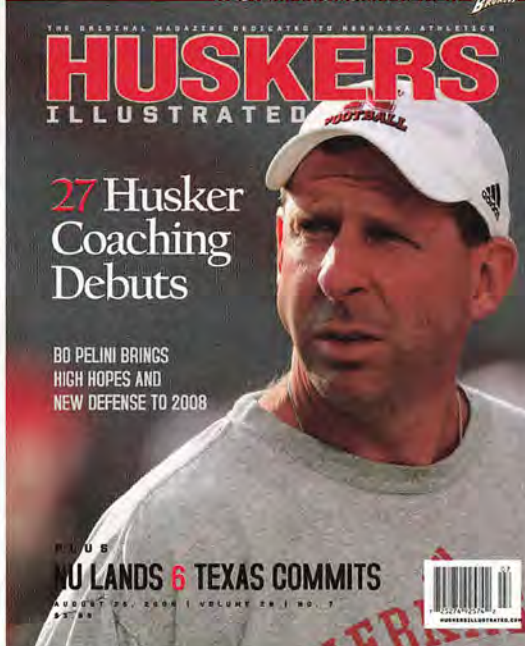
OFFENSE					
WR	87	Swift, Nate	6-2	200	Sr.
	4	Menelik Holt	6-4	220	Jr.
	8	Will Henry	6-5	220	So.
LT	65	Smith, Mike	6-6	285	So.
	72	Jaivorio Burkes	6-5	325	So.
LG	61	Mike Huff	6-4	300	So.
	68	Keith Williams	6-5	305	So.
C	67	Jacob Hickman	6-4	290	Jr.
	58	Mike Caputo	6-1	275	RFr.
RG	70	Matt Slauson	6-5	320	Sr.
	73	D.J. Jones	6-5	305	So.
RT	76	Murtha, Lydon	6-7	315	Sr.
	78	Marcel Jones	6-7	310	RFr.
TE	44	Mike McNeill	6-4	240	So.
	49	Dreu Young	6-4	245	So.
	80	Ryan Hill	6-3	245	RFr.
WR	17	Todd Peterson	6-4	215	Sr.
(or)	24	Niles Paul	6-1	210	So.
	11	Curenski Gilleylen	6-0	210	RFr.
QB	12	Joe Ganz	6-1	210	Sr.
	2	Patrick Witt	6-4	225	RFr.
	3	Zac Lee	6-2	210	So.
IB	5	Marlon Lucky	6-0	215	Sr.
(or)	10	Roy Helu Jr.	6-0	215	So.
(or)	29	Quentin Castille	6-1	245	So.
FB	36	Thomas Lawson	6-0	250	Sr.
	45	Justin Makovicka	6-1	240	So.
DEFENSE					
DE	98	Zach Potter	6-7	280	Sr.
	88	Clayton Sievers	6-4	255	Sr.
NT	93	Ndamukong Suh	6-4	300	Jr.
	56	Shukree Barfield	6-4	290	Sr.
	90	Terrence Moore	6-3	275	RFr.
DT	43	Ty Steinkuhler	6-3	280	Sr.
	94	Jared Crick	6-6	280	RFr.
DE	95	Pierre Allen	6-5	265	So.
	88	Clayton Sievers	6-4	255	Sr.
WLB	34	Cody Glenn	6-0	235	Sr.
	40	Blake Lawrence	6-2	225	So.
MLB	52	Phillip Dillard	6-1	235	Jr.
	51	Will Compton	6-2	230	Fr.
	54	Colton Koehler	6-1	230	Jr.
BLB	53	Tyler Wortman	6-3	235	Sr.
	42	Sean Fisher	6-6	225	Fr.
RC	5	Anthony West	6-0	200	So.
	21	Prince Amukamara	6-1	195	So.
LC	6	Armando Murillo	6-0	190	Sr.
	28	Eric Hagg	6-1	200	So.
SS	4	Larry Asante	6-1	210	Jr.
	2	Major Culbert	6-0	205	Jr.
FS	3	Rickey Thenarse	6-0	195	Jr.
(or)	33	Matt O'Hanlon	5-11	195	Sr.



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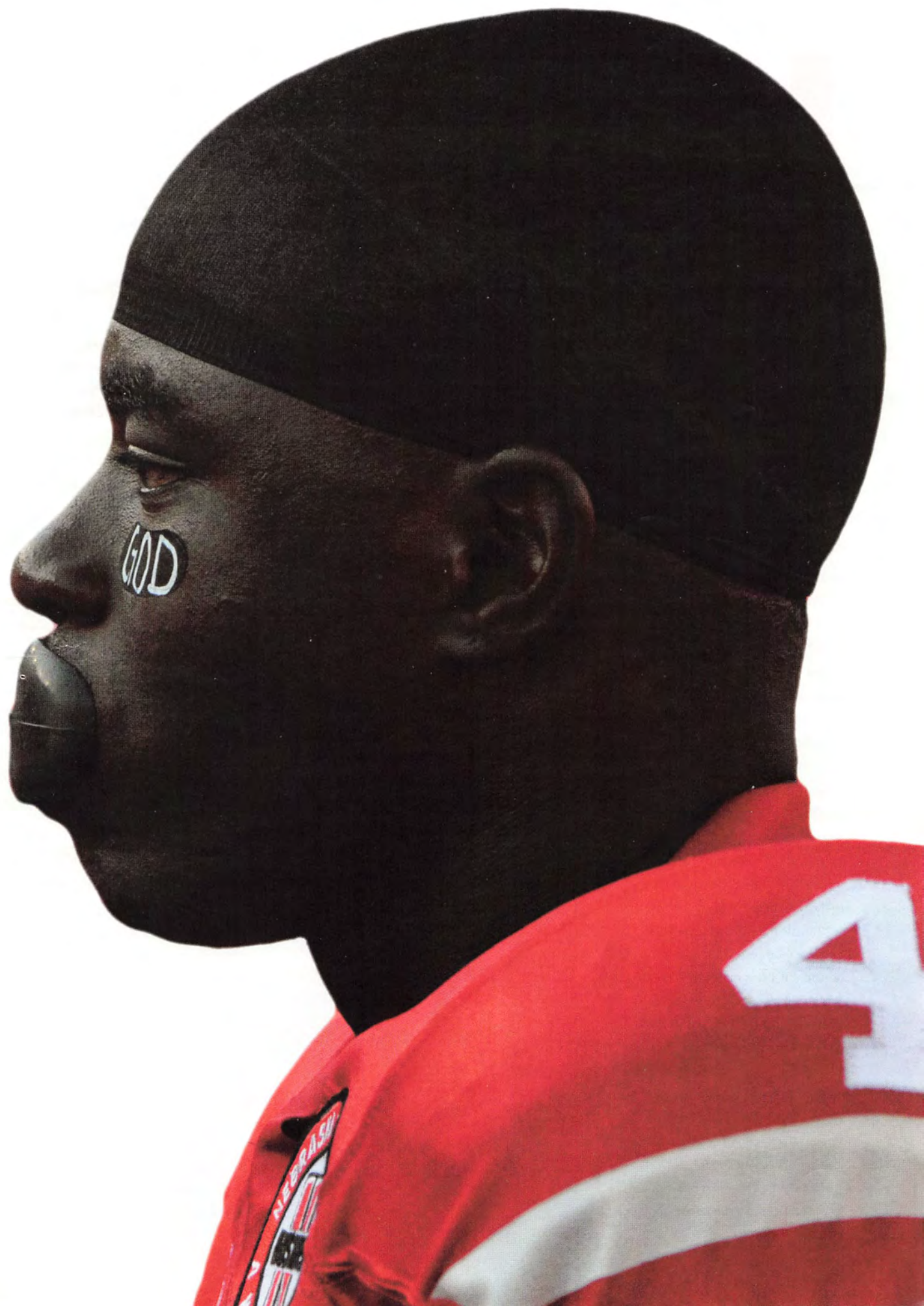
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no second guessing

If things had gone the way they should have for second-year Nebraska safety Larry Asante, he'd be on the sideline opposite the Huskers in this weekend's game at Memorial Stadium.

by Tony Boone



If things had gone the way they should have for second-year Nebraska safety Larry Asante, he'd be on the sideline opposite the Huskers in this weekend's game at Memorial Stadium.

The 6-1, 210-pound junior from Alexandria, Va., was headed to Virginia Tech following his senior season at Hayfield High School until his plans were derailed by a non-qualifying ACT score.

He took the test again but didn't receive the results before deciding to go to junior college instead. Asante was already at Coffeyville Community College in Kansas by the time he found out he had scored a 24 on his second ACT attempt, which would have been good enough to have made him a Hokie while allowing him to play his college ball in his home state.

Avenues to destinations other than Blacksburg, Va., appeared once the hard-hitting safety was in the Midwest. A relationship he developed with Nebraska offensive coordinator Shawn Watson led him north to Lincoln.

"From day one, when I started talking to Coach Watson, I fell in love with the man," Asante said. "He's a good guy and a great coach. But he's a good person first and foremost. That's why I chose to come to Nebraska.

"I was supposed to go back (to Virginia Tech) after junior college, but it kind of just fell apart. Nebraska jumped on me when I was a juco. And I'm all about loyalty so I just came here."

Asante, who calls himself "quietly, a very religious man," said he couldn't be happier than he is as a Husker. Two years in Coffeyville and some divine intervention, he believes, led him to the right place.

"I made the right decision, and I believe God placed me here," he said. "If I was meant to go to Virginia Tech, I'd have been at Virginia Tech. But I'm here so that's where God wanted me to be."

Being in Lincoln, however, hasn't kept the Hokies off Asante's mind. He sees some irony in the fact that Virginia Tech is coming to Lincoln to face his Huskers this year.

Publicly, he's played it off with a wry grin. Behind closed doors though,

Asante hasn't hidden his feelings about the match-up with NU's toughest nonconference foe.

"Put this in bold letters, he will not shut up about that," said Nebraska cornerback Armando Murillo, Asante's roommate. "We're going to do this to Virginia Tech; we're going to do that to Virginia Tech. He just won't shut up about it.

"That's where he's from so I guess he can feel that way. It's a big deal to him. I know, deep down, he's burning inside for that game."

But it's not just the Virginia Tech game that's motivating Asante. Memories from last season's defensive meltdown, which left the Huskers ranked 112th in the nation in total defense, weigh heavily on him.

He doesn't like to talk about it. But last year's second-leading tackler is well aware that the hard-nosed reputation of Nebraska's

defense took a serious hit in 2007. Asante feels it's up to him, and his fellow Blackshirts, to reestablish that identity. "We do have something to prove, pretty much to everyone in the whole nation," he said. "Everyone is counting

us out. You read all over the place that we'll win our first three games, but we'll struggle from then on out. But we know as a team that we do have talent. We have guys in the locker room that can play football, and we're out to prove everybody wrong.

"That's the challenge we're taking upon us. You know what happened last year. You've got to have a chip on your shoulder. With this being Coach (Bo) Pelini's first year, teams think they can come in here and just have their way on us. But it's not happening."

As a reminder to work hard during fall camp, Asante had the Blackshirts' signature skull and crossbones logo shaved into the side of his head.

The new hairdo seemed appropriate for a player once nicknamed "The Assassin" by a coach.

Asante is best known for his rattle-your-cage hitting, which fits in well both as a junior college linebacker and a run support safety in last year's scheme under former NU defensive coordinator Kevin Cosgrove. But in Pelini's system, that's not the case.



New, and former, Nebraska secondary coach Marvin Sanders has been working with Asante, who made 78 total stops from his safety spot in 2007, on becoming a secondary player that defends the pass first. Run support is no longer his primary duty, which is something he's still adjusting to.

The key, Asante said, is discipline.

"I'm an aggressive guy. I want to come up and make the big hit," he said. "But at the same time, I don't want to let my teammates down. In our system, you've got to see it before you react. You can't go up on a play-action fake and let a receiver behind you go for a touchdown.

"Last year, I came up on the run a lot. That's why I had so many tackles. This year, it's not like that so I've kind of had to change my whole mentality. Coach (Pelini) would rather give up something short and shallow than get beat deep. You've got to change your mindset and play the deep balls first, and if anything breaks loose come and tackle it for a minimum gain. You can't come out and just try to hit everybody. It's (got to be a) controlled rage."

So far, it's been a work in progress. Asante said making sure he stays back to defend the pass is something he's worked on every day since the new coaching staff arrived.

For Murillo, who is used to making pass defense the priority as a cornerback, the transition into the new system has been fairly easy. He said it's been tougher on his roommate.

A tiger doesn't usually change its stripes.

"He's used to trying to come up to whack somebody or kill somebody," the senior said. "But with the scheme we've got, it's got to be pass first, then run. He understands that. He's just got to get it."

Asante said he feels blessed to have Sanders there to help him through the adjustment. The former Nebraska defensive back, who was most recently the secondary coach and defensive coordinator at North Carolina, has been successful at every one of his coaching stops.

Asante calls Sanders "a teacher" and "a man of integrity."

"I've learned a lot from him," the Husker safety said. "He's all about technique. If there's a bust in practice, he'll slow it down and show you again. He tells it how it is."

Pelini works much the same way, according to Asante. And the defensive players have bought into what the coach has had to say thus far.

The honorable mention All-Big 12 selection said Nebraska's new head coach has brought the fire back to the Husker defense. And its players, he thinks, are beginning to take on the persona of their leader.



"If there's a shot at a receiver and you don't take it, you'd better run to the locker room because (Bo Pelini is) all about playing physical. He's brought that physical presence."

LARRY ASANTE

"I believe all 11 guys on the defense take on the mentality of their head coach," Asante said. "And Coach Pelini's one tough coach. If there's a shot at a receiver and you don't take it, you'd better run to the locker room because he's all about playing physical. He's brought that physical presence."

Last year, that presence was lacking, something Asante said he's reminded of every time he and Murillo square off in EA Sports' NCAA Football 09 during their down time. He always chooses Nebraska. But he can't get over the fact that no Husker on defense had an overall rating higher than 86 (out of 99).

He was an 85.

"I don't like my rating," he said. "I think I'm a lot better than that."

Asante said all of the NU defenders got penalized because NCAA Football 09's ratings were based off last season's stats. That didn't stop him from going undefeated, however, when he played the entire Husker season on the game.

"Hopefully, that's how it will go in real life," he said.

Without a video game controller in his hand, Asante doesn't expect football perfection to come easily. The Huskers not only have his could've-been teammates from Virginia Tech left on their schedule; they also face some of the nation's top offenses and quarterbacks in the Big 12.

"As a secondary, we can't wait for that challenge," Asante said. "We've got a great coach. And whoever we play that week, we know he's going to have a scheme to shut those guys down."

To date, the Nebraska defense and its star safety have yet to play to their potential in 2008. Asante said he can feel it coming. But thus far, the small improvements aren't enough.

"I'm not satisfied," he said. "We've got a lot of work to do. We can't perform like that against any of the top schools in the nation. That's not good enough, and we'll get it corrected." **N**

Around the Horn

MIKE COATMAN



MEN'S GOLF

Coatman confident after U.S. Amateur

BY TOMMY DAHLK

Mike Coatman probably should have been more nervous on that morning in late August.

At 6:30

a.m., the Nebraska sophomore was among 26 golfers vying for the final two spots in the 64-player match-play portion of the 108th U.S. Amateur at Pinehurst No. 2 in Pinehurst, N.C.

However, Coatman didn't feel much pressure at all.

"Everyone knew they had to make a birdie to get to the next hole," Coatman said. "You just had to go out there and try

to make a birdie. I thought, 'If I make a birdie, great. If I don't, I'm not going to be disappointed with how I played. I had a great week.' "

During the previous two days, 315 players competed in a 36-hole qualifier for those final 64 spots. After 27 holes, Coatman was in the middle of the pack.

But Coatman got hot during the final nine holes of the qualifier. Carrying a hot putter, Coatman made three birdies and jumped into a tie for 63rd place.

In the second largest playoff in U.S. Amateur history, Coatman barely missed a 15-foot birdie putt.

Sure, Coatman missed a spot in the match-play field, but the Lincoln Southwest graduate got a nice consolation prize —

newfound confidence.

"It proved that I could play with those guys, and I'm not too far behind them," Coatman said. "It just gave me a lot of confidence going into this fall."

Coatman said he has played great golf the past few months. His hot streak started when he ended his freshman season with a tie for 16th place at the Big 12 Championship in Trinity, Texas, last April. Ever since that tournament, Coatman said he's had a much smoother putting stroke and that has complemented his solid ball-striking.

Oh, and the confidence hasn't hurt either. After nearly getting a shot to win the most coveted U.S. Amateur prize, Coatman said he'll have plenty of confidence during his sophomore season and hopes to lead a much-improved Husker squad.

"I think this year my goal is to finish a little higher in every tournament," Coatman said. "Maybe get close to winning one, you never know. But I know I can do that with the confidence I have." **N**



HUSKER QUICK HITS

FALL SEASON

The Nebraska men's golf team opened its fall season with a seventh-place tie in its Fairway Club Invitational at ArborLinks Golf Course in Nebraska City, Neb. Junior **BRANDON CRICK** led the Huskers and finished in a tie for 13th individually with a two-round total of 148. Sophomores **MIKE COATMAN** and **TYLER PARSLOE** finished in a tie for 18th, one shot behind Crick.

The Husker women's team was scheduled to open its fall season in its two-day Chip-N Club Invitational at Wildnerness Ridge in Lincoln, Neb., on Sept. 15-16.

LARA CROFFORD



FAST START

Sophomore **LARA CROFFORD** led the Husker women's cross country team to a runner-up finish at the BYU Autumn Classic in Provo, Utah, the first week in September. Crofford ran the 5K course in 19:10.9, the top individual time in the women's field, 18 seconds ahead of teammate **RACHEL CARRIZALES**.

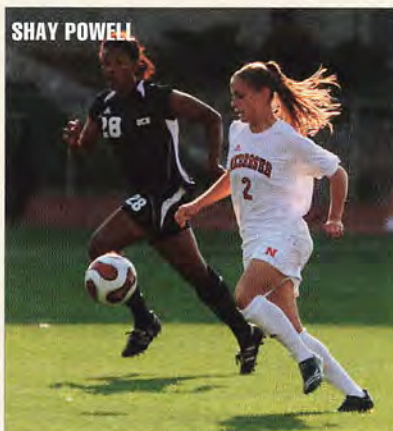
The Huskers were without two of their top runners, **ARI GOLDSTEIN** and **NATALJA ZARCENKO**.

Host Brigham Young won both the women's and men's competition. The Husker, led by redshirted freshman **DAVID ADAMS**, finished third. Adams was 11th individually.

Adams led the Huskers to a first-place finish the previous week at the Creighton/UNO Classic at Omaha, running the 6K

race in 19:05.73. The Husker women were runners-up to Augustana College of Sioux Falls, S.D., with senior **BETSY MILLER** finishing third.

SHAY POWELL



VICTORY AT LAST

Junior **SHAY POWELL** scored two goals, while goalkeepers **BRITTANY PFEIL** (first 86 minutes) and **JESSICA MILLS** combined for the shutout in the Husker soccer team's 3-0 victory against Alabama-Birmingham at the Nebraska Soccer Field the first week in September. The Huskers had dropped their first four matches.

OSBORNE STATEMENT

Athletic Director **TOM OSBORNE** issued a statement regarding recent discussion of the university's admissions process relating to prospective student-athletes. The discussion arose, in large part, during the recruitment of **JORGE DIAZ**, a basketball player from Puerto Rico who was denied admission.

The statement: "The UNL Office of Admissions does an outstanding job and has been very cooperative in dealing with the Athletic Department. I accept full responsibility for any criticism of our recruiting activities. I'm sorry we can't fully explain the entire recruiting process of student-athletes due to NCAA rules, but at the appropriate time we will be fully transparent."

Volleyball

KAYLA BANWARTH

BY BOB HAMAR

Huskers take defense to new level

It may have been the signature play of the season for Nebraska's new-look volleyball team.

It came in the second match of the year against then-No. 4 ranked Southern Cal. A USC player slammed an attack that the Huskers dug, but the ball went flying way back behind the end line at the spacious Qwest Center

in Omaha.

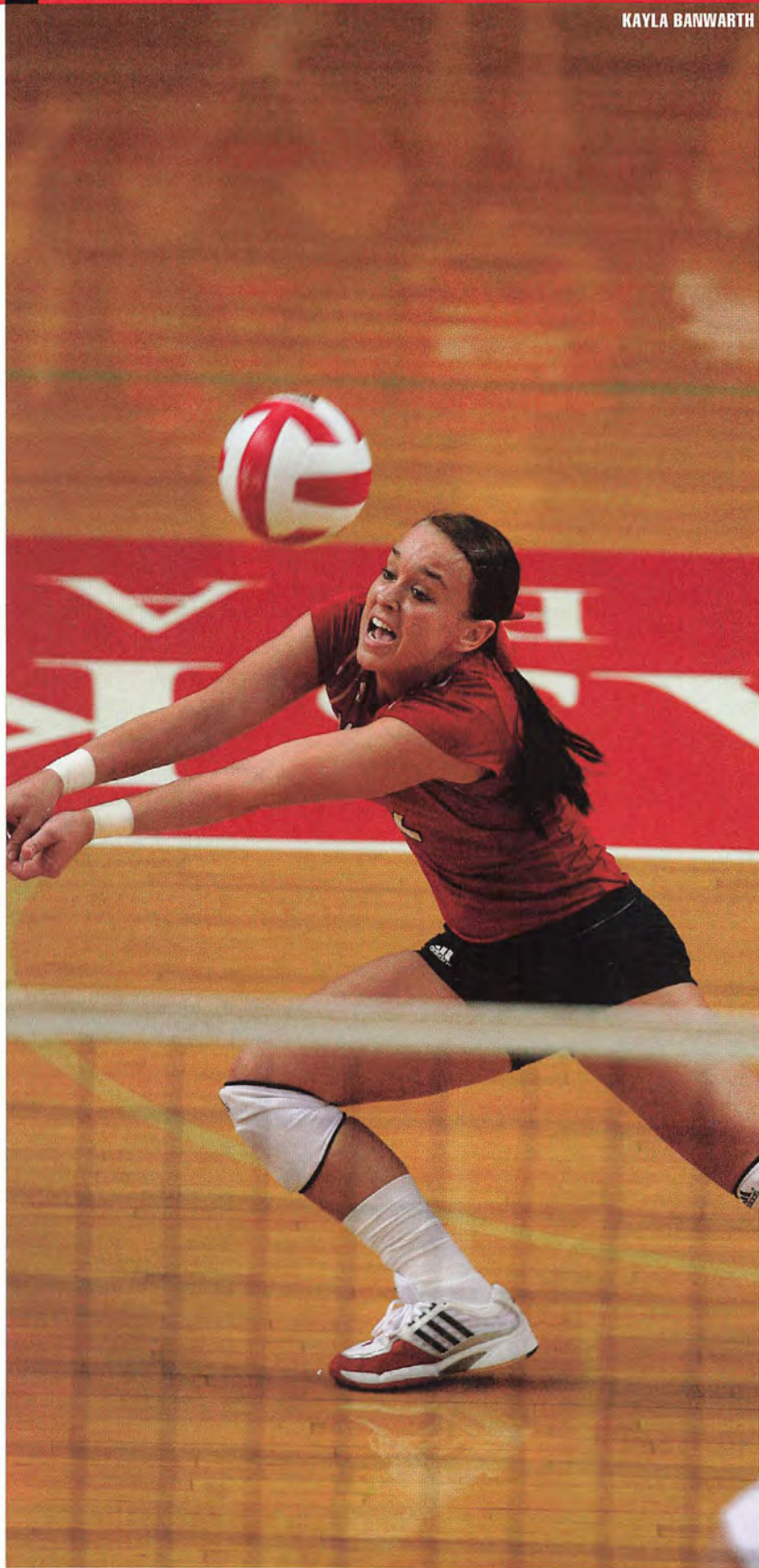
The next thing you knew, all six Huskers were off the court in pursuit of the ball. The fact that they were unable to retrieve this particular kill is irrelevant in the long run. The players returned to the court smiling as the crowd gave them a round of applause for their effort.

"I remember that," sophomore outside hitter Tara Mueller said. "We were all way off like almost in the stands. That's just the mentality of our game. We're not going to let anything drop. We're going to go for everything."

Southern Cal coach Mick Haley also appreciated the effort of the Husker defenders at the site of this year's final four.

"The athleticism was doing it," Haley said. "People were running off the floor like the Cubans and bringing balls back in a spacious area. That was pretty fun to watch. I thought Nebraska made a lot of good efforts and if they can sustain that, I think that will certainly help. That gives them a chance to be back here at the end of the year."

Nebraska coach John Cook said Cal Poly



coach John Stevenson said the Husker pressure at the end of sets was just too much for his team.

"That's the same thing the USC coach said," Cook said. "When I hear that, it's attacking with your serve, not giving them any easy plays and digging everything they hit. That's a great compliment."

Cook saw what his team could do in the spring when the Huskers hosted former NU assistant coach Craig Skinner and his Kentucky Wildcats in an exhibition match. Skinner told Cook that the Huskers' floor defense was "unbelievable."

"Again we don't have the monster block so we better be able to dig balls," Cook said.

Besides 6-5 sophomore outside hitter Lindsey Licht, the Huskers aren't nearly as tall and physical up front as they were in the past. Players like Sarah Pavan, Christina Houghtelling, Tracy Stalls and Melissa Elmer just wore down opponents with their attacking and blocking up front.

This year the Huskers wear down opponents by digging everything that's hit at them.

"I thought we were pretty good last year," Cook said. "It's something over the last couple years that we've gotten pretty good at. We've made it a priority. Chris Houghtelling went from not playing the back row to being the defensive player of the year in the Big 12."

"It shows you that our team has embraced that mentality of playing defense. We always used to hear, 'Nebraska can't play defense.' We've built on that."

The Huskers have shown early this season that they can play defense. Sophomore Kayla Banwarth, who plays 5-and-one-half rotations as a libero, is at the heart of the defensive effort. She led the Huskers with 4.21 digs per set this season through the first six matches.

"Coach said it. We really don't have a choice this year," Banwarth said. "If we to be great we have to be the best passing team, the best digging team in the country. I think we've embraced that challenge and we work on it every day in practice. We understand that's what we have to do to be great."

With Banwarth, Schwartz, Mueller and

senior Jordan Larson manning the back row, the Husker opponents have a tough time finding a soft spot to attack. Cook said Southern Cal tried hard to find that soft spot.

"They first started going after Tara and she passed great," Cook said. "So then they started going after Kayla and Rachel and they both passed great. That's one of the things about our system. We have four really good passers. They tried everybody. We passed at a really high level."

The Huskers have also excelled in serving and serve receiving early in the year. In the first six matches, they had 36 ace serves while giving up just 10 at least two of those were let serves that hit the top of the net and went over.

"We definitely serve tough which took our opponents out of their rhythm," Banwarth said. "In turn we passed the ball great and let our hitters run their sets and do what they do."

2008 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 29-31	Runza/AVCA Showcase
Aug. 29	*Stanford, W, 3-0
Aug. 31	*USC, W, 3-1
Sept. 1	Oral Roberts, W 3-0
Sept. 5-6	Cal Poly Invite
Sept. 5	Tulane, W, 3-0
Sept. 6	Cal Poly, W, 3-0
Sept. 12-13	Ameritas Players Challenge
Sept. 12	LSU, 6 p.m.
Sept. 13	Championship, 3 p.m.
Sept. 17	at Kansas State, 7 p.m.
Sept. 20	Texas, 7 p.m.
Sept. 24	Kansas, 7 p.m.
Sept. 27	at Iowa State, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 1	at Texas Tech, 7 p.m.
Oct. 4	Colorado, 7 p.m.
Oct. 5	*Creighton, 5 p.m.
Oct. 8	Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Missouri, 1 p.m.
Oct. 15	Baylor, 7 p.m.
Oct. 22	Texas A&M, 7 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
Oct. 29	at Colorado, 8 p.m.
Nov. 1	Iowa State, 7 p.m.
Nov. 5	at Texas A&M, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 8	Kansas State, TBA
Nov. 12	Missouri, 7 p.m.
Nov. 15	at Kansas, TBA
Nov. 19	at Texas, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 22	Texas Tech, 7 p.m.
Nov. 29	at Baylor, 7 p.m.
Dec. 5-6	NCAA 1st/2nd Rounds, TBA
Dec. 12-13	*NCAA Regionals
Dec. 18-20	*NCAA Semifinals, Finals * at Quest Center, Omaha

It's really about helping each other. You pass the ball to your setter and she can make a great set to your hitter. It's doing it for each other."

THRAMER TO JOIN NU

Hayley Thramer of Ewing became the fourth verbal commitment for this year's recruiting class when she told Cook early this month that she would accept the school's scholarship offer.

Thramer had verbally committed to Wisconsin when it appeared the Huskers didn't have a scholarship for her. One became available when Jordan Haverly left the program in August after just one week of practice.

Thramer, a 6-2 middle blocker, had over 400 kills last season while leading Ewing to a Class D-2 state runner-up finish. The Tigers went 30-1 with the only loss being a five-set setback to Paxton in the championship match.

Nebraska's 2009 class now includes Thramer, outside hitter Gina Mancuso of Papillion-LaVista, outside hitter Hanah Werth of Glenwood, Ill., and libero Megan Pendergast of League City, Texas.

READY FOR K-STATE

Cook said Nebraska's trip to the Cal Poly Tournament, played in the 3,000-seat Mott Gym, was great preparation for this week's Big 12 opener at Kansas State.

"They had over 2,500," Cook said. "It's a small gym. It's loud. Of course they were fired up. It was a huge match for them and our team responded really well."

"Hopefully we'll have a lot of confidence when we go to K-State."

LET'S NOT PLAY TWO

The Huskers played both Northeastern and Cal Poly on the first day of the tournament. Cook has never liked playing two matches in a day. He said the Huskers won't do it again.

"I got talked into it. We're not doing it any more," Cook said. "It's hard to play one good match in one day. To expect them to play two good matches in one day, forget it. It's only going to be frustrating." **N**

Men's Basketball

SEK HENERY

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

Breaking down the Husker schedule

Visits from Duke, North Carolina or UCLA won't likely ever happen for the Nebraska men's basketball team.

Does that mean the non-conference schedule must be filled with directional schools and provisional Division I teams every season?

How about a visit from Georgia, Clemson, South Carolina, Virginia or Alabama? Wouldn't that be feasible?

Close, but not quite. Those are among the schools Nebraska director of basketball operations Chris Croft spoke with about filling one of the remaining spots on the 2008-09 schedule.

"They want to play us. We want to play them," Croft said. "We had some dates that worked. But they (were) waiting on getting one more, maybe a guarantee game. They (were) waiting on one more game."

A home game, specifically, just like Nebraska.

So the Huskers turned to Florida A&M to complete the schedule, which coach Doc Sadler announced Sept. 2. The biggest marquee home game: The annual rival with Creighton.

St. Louis, led by legendary coach Rick Majerus, also visits Lincoln. Nebraska also hosts NCAA Tournament qualifier Maryland-Baltimore County, and NIT qualifier Alabama State.

Their names, though, aren't flashy enough for many fans, who will instead point to the four foes who finished with an RPI in the 300s last season.



It's a battle Sadler continues to fight.

"Everybody wants to base things on what happens last year," Sadler said. "When you throw a name out there, a lot of times it's connected to what teams did last year."

Take Arizona State, for instance. The Sun Devils were coming off an eight-win season when they visited Lincoln last December. Nebraska won 62-47, and Arizona State finished 21-13 and advanced to the quarterfinals of the NIT.

"A year ago, Arizona State wasn't supposed to be a good basketball team," Sadler said. "You never know what you're going to get into."

Nebraska returns to Arizona State as part of the Big 12/Pac 10 Hardwood Series this season, and also begins a home-and-home series at Oregon State. The Beavers won only six games last season and have first-year coach Craig Robinson.

Oregon State returns the trip in 2009-10, and Nebraska will likely host a game in the Hardwood Series against a new Pac 10 opponent. Sadler is also looking to begin a series with Minnesota that season, meaning the home schedule should have a little more spark.

But it's not easy.

Among the reasons it's difficult to attract name opponents to Lincoln: recruiting. BCS schools who travel in the non-conference prefer destinations that have budding high school stars who can see their teams play. Nebraska isn't exactly a fertile recruiting ground when it comes to high school basketball.

Nor is Lincoln the easiest travel destination. That's another obstacle that keeps some teams from visiting.

Nebraska is willing to travel to a Georgia or South Carolina as part of a home-and-home series ... just not this season, when the Huskers already had three non-conference road games.

One is at TCU, which begins a four-year series. Sadler has said he'd prefer to not travel for a non-BCS conference team, but TCU, a member of the Mountain West, fits snug in a hotbed recruiting state - Texas.

Nebraska will have 21 televised games on a combination of ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU, the Big 12 Network and FSN. The eight games picked for Nebraska's third-tier television package with FSN will be announced at a later date.

Nebraska, which will play a closed scrimmage against Marquette, has one exhibition game, against Chadron State on Nov. 7. The regular season begins Nov. 16 at home against San Jose State.

"We're pleased with the way this schedule has turned out," Sadler said. "We especially like the non-conference schedule as we have a good number of teams that have had success recently and are likely going to be picked at the top of their leagues this year. It will be a strong schedule that should set us up for the postseason, which is our goal every year."

HOOP NOTES

►Jorge Diaz, the 6-11, 220-pound forward who orally committed to Nebraska in August, was not admitted to classes for the fall semester.

UNL admissions denied Diaz enrollment because he's a non-native-English-speaking student who didn't meet the school's English proficiency requirements.

Diaz was born in the United States but grew up in Puerto Rico and attended school there, where his primary language was Spanish. Diaz tried taking the TOEFL - Test Of English as a Foreign Language - in August, but a computer malfunction at his school prevented him from doing so.

Nebraska admissions gave the athletic department an opportunity for Diaz to fly to Lincoln and take the school's English proficiency exam - a trip that could've been part of a paid official recruiting visit. The athletic department turned down the idea but has declined to give a reason.

Diaz can still take the TOEFL and, with a

2008 NEBRASKA BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT, TV, TIME
Fri., Nov. 7	CHADRON STATE (EXH.) 7 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 16	San Jose State, 2 p.m.
Wed., Nov. 19	at TCU Fort Worth, Texas TBA
Sat., Nov. 22	ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF , 1 p.m.
Tue., Nov. 25	SAINT LOUIS , 7 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 29	CREIGHTON , 7 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 3	ALABAMA STATE , 7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 7	at Arizona State Tempe, Ariz. TBA
Sat., Dec. 13	at Oregon State Corvallis, Ore. TBA
Sat., Dec. 20	IPFW , 7 p.m.
Tue., Dec. 23	UMBC , 7 p.m.
Tue., Dec. 30	SOUTH CAROLINA STATE , 7 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 3	MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE , 2 p.m.
Mon., Jan. 5	FLORIDA A&M , 7 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 10	MISSOURI , ESPN2 2 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 14	at Iowa State, 7 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 17	KANSAS STATE , Big 12 Network 5 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 21	at Oklahoma, ESPNU 8 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 24	OKLAHOMA STATE , Big 12 Network 3 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 28	KANSAS , ESPN2 6:30 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 31	at Texas Tech, Big 12 Network 7 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 4	at Colorado, TBA
Sat., Feb. 7	TEXAS , ESPN 1 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 14	at Missouri, Big 12 Network 12:30 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 18	COLORADO , ESPNU 8 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 21	at Kansas, Big 12 Network 3 p.m.
Tue., Feb. 24	TEXAS A&M , ESPN2 8:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 28	at Kansas State, Big 12 Network 7 p.m.
Wed., March 4	IOWA STATE , 6:30 p.m.
Sat., March 7	at Baylor, Big 12 Network 3 p.m.
March 11-14	at Big 12 Championship, Big 12 Network

successful score, can enroll in classes for the spring semester. In that event, he'd be eligible to join the team for practice and competition on Dec. 19.

Diaz, who's not signed a letter of intent, could also decide to attend another school.

►Former Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee has been named director of player development for the Rutgers men's basketball team.

Nee spent the last two seasons as a scout for the NBA's Utah Jazz. As a college head coach, Nee won a combined 410 games at Ohio, Nebraska, Robert Morris and Duquesne. His 254-189 record at Nebraska is the all-time winningest by a Husker coach. He was fired after the 1999-2000 season. **N**



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNL ARCHIVES

PITT PROBLEMS — Quarterback John Bordogna passes during the Cornhuskers' 14-6 loss at now-gone Pitt Stadium in 1953. Even though they were 0-1-1 going into the game, the Panthers were ranked No. 17 in the Associated Press poll. They would move up one place the next week before dropping out after three consecutive losses, finishing with a 3-5-1 record. Coach Bill Glassford's fifth Nebraska team would finish 3-6-1 despite the efforts of Bordogna. The 5-9, 180-pound senior from Turtle Creek, Pa., set a school single-season record with 52 pass completions (in 116 attempts) and finished with school career records for passes completed (113) and passing yards (1,564). Pittsburgh is among the few schools with an all-time advantage in football against the Cornhuskers, who have won the last three games, including a 14-6 upset at Memorial Stadium in 1958 and victories in 2004 (24-17 at Pittsburgh) and 2005 (7-6 in Lincoln) under Bill Callahan. Prior to the 1958 game, the Panthers had won 15 of 21 against Nebraska, with three ties.

BOB DEVANEY'S FIRST SEASON

Game 4, Oct. 13, 1962 at Memorial Stadium

Nebraska 19, North Carolina State 14

North Carolina State	6	0	8	0	—	14
Nebraska	0	0	7	12	—	19

(NCS) Jim Rossi 3 run (kick failed)

(N) Dennis Claridge 2 run (John Faiman kick)

(NCS) Joe Scarpati 91 kickoff return (Don Montgomery pass Rossi)

(N) Dennis Stuewe 1 run (pass failed)

(N) Stuewe 12 run (run failed)

Attendance: 36,867



The Cornhuskers led for only 1 minute and 21 seconds. But that was enough against upset-minded North Carolina State on Band Day. Dennis Stuewe scored the winning touchdown with 1:08 remaining, when quarterback Dennis Claridge crossed up the Wolfpack defense, handing the ball to Stuewe instead of attempting a pass on third-and-3. Stuewe's first touchdown came with 6:45 remaining in the game. Coach Bob Devaney elected to go for a two-point conversion and the lead. The winning touchdown drive covered 68 yards in 10 plays. Claridge completed 14-of-23 passes for 184 yards. The 14 completions tied the school single-game record, set by John Bordogna against Iowa State in 1951.

DEVANEY: "I don't think we underestimated them. But we may have overestimated ourselves. I think maybe the fellows started believing all the nice things that have been written about us."

DID YOU KNOW? Johnny Carson finished his first week as host of The Tonight Show, replacing Jack Paar, to less than enthusiastic reviews. The previous week, Nebraska had introduced a new mascot, an 8-foot tall character dressed in coveralls, a plaid shirt and a straw hat. This week, he had a name, the winning suggestion in a contest, "Huskie Husker." Band Day, which had begun in 1933, featured some 3,700 high school musicians representing 68 Nebraska towns.

TOM OSBORNE'S FIRST SEASON

Game 4, Oct. 6, 1973 at Minneapolis

Nebraska 48, Minnesota 7

Nebraska	7	14	13	14	—	48
Minnesota	7	0	0	0	—	7

(N) Tony Davis 1 run (Rich Sanger kick)

(M) Tony Dungy 10 run (Goldberg kick)

(N) Frosty Anderson 19 pass Dave Humm (Sanger kick)

(N) Anderson 67 pass Humm (Sanger kick)

(N) Anderson 32 pass Humm (Sanger kick)

(N) John O'Leary 6 run (kick failed)

(N) Steve Runty 1 run (Sanger kick)

(N) O'Leary 66 punt return (Sanger kick)

Attendance: 58,091



An estimated 10,000-plus Nebraska fans were part of the first sellout crowd at Minnesota's Memorial Stadium in 12 years on a cold and wet afternoon. Despite the conditions, junior quarterback Dave Humm completed 10-of-19 passes for 204 yards and three touchdowns, all to senior wide receiver Frosty Anderson. Coach Tom Osborne pulled two sophomores out of redshirts: split end Dave Shamblin and I-back John O'Leary, who scored the second of his two touchdowns on a 66-yard punt return. The exuberant O'Leary turned a somersault after each of the touchdowns. Osborne observed that running backs coach Mike Corgan — nicknamed "Iron Mike" for good reason — would not be happy with such behavior.

OSBORNE: "We go into every game hoping to run the ball because I don't think you can go in relying on the pass. But then you have to adapt to how the opponent is trying to defense you."

DID YOU KNOW? Yes, Minnesota's freshman quarterback was THAT Tony Dungy. In fact, the day of the game was Dungy's 18th birthday. The Cornhusker defense, led by Bob Martin and John Lee didn't allow him to do much celebrating, however. Nebraska's Rich Sanger became the NCAA record-holder for career extra points. His second of the game gave him 129, breaking the record set by Happy Feller of Texas (1968-70).

CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

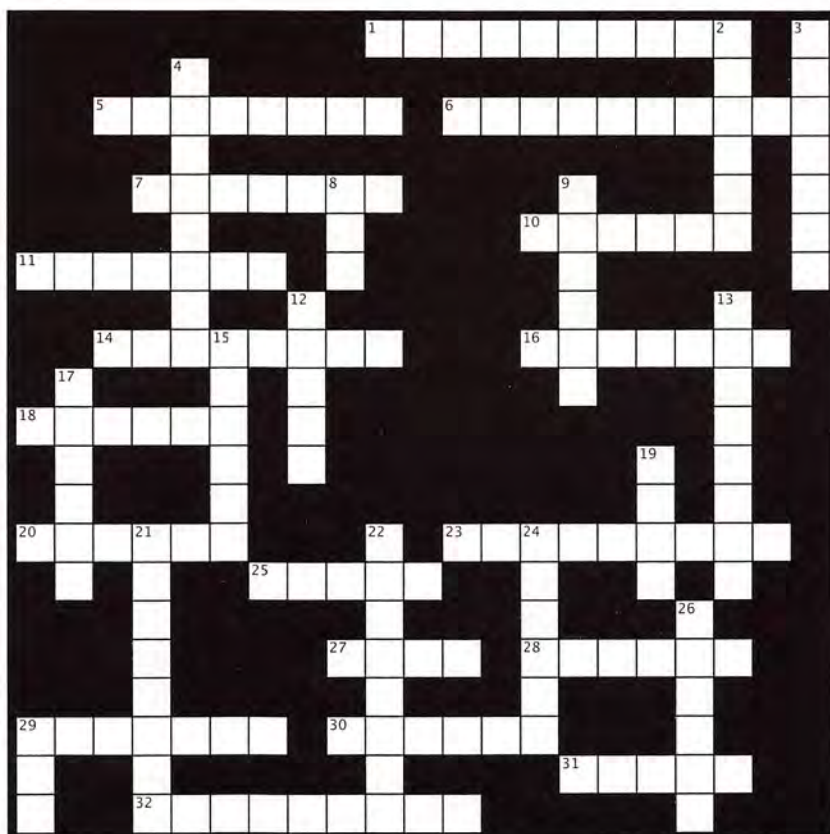
ACROSS

1. Virginia Tech campus location
5. Wears No. 68
6. Bo Pelini's hometown
7. Wears No. 67
10. Oct. 25 opponent
11. Assistant head coach
14. Scored first TD vs. San Jose State
16. NU chancellor
18. Intercepted pass vs. San Jose State
20. Virginia Tech head coach
23. Ex-Husker and New England guard
25. Scored 3 TDs in first 2 games
27. Returned kickoff for TD vs. San Jose State
28. 2005 starting QB
29. Wears No. 70
30. Football strength coach
31. Single-game rushing leader
32. First road opponent in 2008

DOWN

2. 1972 Outland Trophy winner
3. True freshman who played vs. San Jose State
4. Joe Ganz's home state
8. Virginia Tech's conference
9. 2004 starting QB
12. Leading tackler vs. San Jose State
13. NU assistant who graduated from Virginia Tech
15. Defensive end injured vs. San Jose State
17. Virginia Tech's nickname
19. Backup QB who played vs. San Jose State
21. Homecoming opponent
22. Nov. 1 opponent
24. Associate head coach
26. Career rushing leader
29. Defensive player who scored vs. San Jose State

Answers will appear in Oct. 4 issue



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SEPTEMBER 13 CROSSWORD SOLUTION





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Murtha brings attitude to offense

IT WAS ALL ABOUT attitude and finishing.

Marlon Lucky cut inside Lydon Murtha's block on his way to a 58-yard gain on the second play from scrimmage in the second half. Murtha had New Mexico State defensive end Ross Conner engaged.

It wasn't much of an engagement, really. Murtha is 6-7, 315 pounds. Conner is 5-10, 212. As Lucky went by, Murtha tossed Conner to the turf with such force that Conner's helmet flew off.

While Lucky was cutting across the field, angling toward the west sideline, the Murtha-Conner engagement continued. "I kind of went down on him, threw him a little elbow," Murtha said. "I think I hit him in the nose. He was out for the rest of the game, so I don't know if I hurt him."

Oh yes, Murtha also kicked aside Conner's helmet for good measure.

"Acted like I tripped over it," he said. "The ref was eyeing me."

Murtha's actions reflected an attitude apparent in the Cornhuskers' 38-7 victory. "I mean, you don't want to go out there and do stupid things, make stupid mistakes," he said.

"But going out there and playing relentless . . . We say it every day, 'Up front, relentless.' If you have to throw a few here and there . . . we just call it 'finish.' That's definitely a part of play we like."

Murtha just liked playing against an over-matched New Mexico State team. He would have been happy regardless, after missing the first two games with a staph infection in his right leg and a partially torn triceps. He also

missed practice during that time and had to force himself back into the lineup.

He practiced only once the week before the game and slipped in extra repetitions.

"I knew I was going to play because I just had to play. I can't miss three games," Murtha said. "I needed to get in this game, period, no matter what, even if I was hurting a little bit."

Nebraska needed him, too, though not at the expense of his health, of course. Murtha is an essential element of the offensive line. "It was good to see the big man back out there," coach Bo Pelini said. "He's a heck of a football player, and he brings an attitude with him and a physicalness."

"We're a better football team with him in there."

The numbers support Pelini's assertion. The talk throughout spring practice and fall camp was that the Cornhuskers were resurrecting a smash-mouth running game. The first two games provided no evidence, however, just repeated assurances that the components were in place.

Granted New Mexico State's defense isn't going to be mistaken for the Steel Curtain. The Aggies depend on an unconventional alignment and variations to compensate.

Even so, Nebraska's 330 rushing yards were cause for optimism as the real challenge begins in two weeks with a visit from Virginia Tech in the final non-conference game and then the start of Big 12 play with games against Missouri and Texas Tech at Lubbock, no less.

Attitude will be important, attitude like

Murtha's.

"I just loved the attitude," Pelini said of the Cornhuskers' defensive stand on the final series of the third quarter. New Mexico State had first-and-goal at the Nebraska 2-yard line, following a fourth-down pass interference penalty. But Aggies couldn't capitalize.

The series stayed alive with another pass interference penalty before Matt O'Hanlon's pass interception, on third-and-9 from the 19-yard line, ended it. The Cornhuskers kept playing despite the penalties.

Attitude. "At that point, they can get (ticked) like the coaches, get upset as I was and lose their focus," said Pelini. "But they just kept hanging in there. And that's good to see."

"That's all a part of it, the attitude. We talked about going in keeping your focus, keeping your discipline no matter what the adversity is, no matter what happens the play before."

Pelini showed similar attitude by calling a timeout with 2 seconds remaining and New Mexico State at the Cornhusker 2-yard line, following a 55-yard pass play. "I wanted to make sure we had the opportunity to make a play, put them in a good situation," he said of his defenders.

"If they (Aggies) felt the need to keep playing, then it was up to us to keep playing. If they're going to run out the clock, I'm going to be a little bit more vanilla. They obviously didn't take that attitude."

They also didn't score. Nebraska had the attitude to finish. **N**

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